

MOUTH OF THE RIVER

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL DURIAM, NC 28824 ISSUE FOUR APRIL 9, 2013



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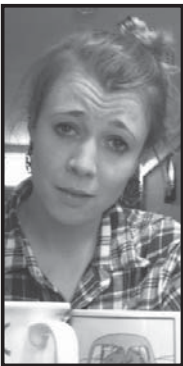
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Dear *Mouth of the River* readers,



I would like to apologize for my actions in the last issue of the paper. In issue number three of *Mouth of the River*, I plagiarized from the website IMDb and put it in my article called the "Fab Five." I took whole sections of their summary and put it into my own article without citing it.

This violates the Journalism Code of Ethics, specifically accountability. The Code states that "journalists abide by the same high standards to which they hold others." At *Mouth of the River* these high standards include reporting and writing original work, and "representing the voice of the student body," as listed in our mission statement.

I have broken this guideline by plagiarizing, which gives the false impression that I wrote the entire article. I hope this letter shows the disappointment that I have with myself in plagiarizing. By doing so, I wish to honor the Code of Ethics guideline that I, as a journalist, "admit mistakes and correct them promptly."

Moving forward, I will write high-quality articles that will obey the journalism Code of Ethics and meet the standards of *Mouth of the River*. I hope that you all will accept this apology and enjoy this issue.

Sincerely,
 Nick Lazar

Dear Oyster River,

Welcome to this year's fourth edition of *Mouth of the River*! Even in these hard times, with AP classes reviewing everything they've learned since September 2012 and spring sports getting into full swing (pardon the tennis pun), MOR strives to to present the Oyster River community with a variety of captivating and informative stories that represent the voice of the student body.

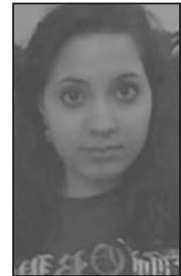
(Still the best mission statement ever.)

I think the following pages contain the biggest stories we've had all year: you'll find articles on subjects like Newmarket students potentially coming to ORHS, the graduation date debate, and the possibility of an Oyster River football team starting up. Wow!

Above is a letter from Nick Lazar. I regret to inform you all that he plagiarized one of his articles from the last issue, but I would like to stress the fact that such actions are unacceptable in our paper. Plagiarism is unacceptable in any situation, and these are not the standards our writers hold themselves to.

On a lighter note, I hope you enjoy this issue! As always, we're open to feedback from the public and school community about our paper.

Fun fact of the issue: On April Fool's Day in certain areas of Belgium, children lock their parents and teachers out of the house/classroom and only let them in if they promise to give the kids candy. New Oyster River tradition?



Love, Adelia.

NEXT ISSUE: JUNE 4TH!

LOOKIN' FLY

A PREVIEW OF THE RELAY FOR LIFE FASHION SHOW



Adelia Couser
Editor in Chief

How would you like to go to New York City for a night, free of charge?

While that may be difficult at this point in time, with teachers cramming in spring studying and AP exams coming up, you can settle for the next-best-thing: attending the NYC-themed Relay for Life fashion show at ORHS on Thursday, April 11!

Relay for Life is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, and it is something ORHS has participated in for several years. Students form teams and raise money (at least \$100 each) to go towards cancer re-

search. The final Relay event occurs in June, where teams gather at a designated location (this year, at our very own ORHS) and remember those who have lost their lives to cancer, honor survivors and caretakers, and ultimately "fight back" against the disease. The event includes costumed team members walking around a track to signify that cancer never stops, with different lap themes every hour.

"The fashion show is the biggest fundraising effort the Relay for Life program puts on," says coordinator Pranav Nanda. "Each year we set up a show of high school students to help raise money." He explains that students from all four grades are chosen to model clothing on a decorated stage while Mr. Garman and Mrs. Drake serve as commentators. There will be three modeling "runs" separated by brief intermissions. "The night is essentially a typical fashion show filled with awkward moments, cute outfits, laughter, smiles, and a good time for everyone," explains Nanda. "Rumor has it that there might be some live street performers and maybe even a candy dress. So be sure to check it out!"

In addition to watching their peers wear fancy clothing, fashion show attendees also have the opportunity to participate in a raffle that local businesses have donated items to. They can buy tickets either in advance or at the show for the chance to win prizes such as pizza and froyo gift certificates, a \$75 gift card to Regal

Limousine, and free prom tickets. A complete collection of the raffle items will be on display outside the auditorium, and the drawing will be held during the second intermission in the show.

While all this preparation might seem overwhelming, in some aspects this year's fashion show actually requires less work than previous years' shows. "The big change in the fashion show this year is that it's being held in the auditorium instead of in the cafeteria," says coordinator and ORHS librarian Kathy Pearce, "which presents a lot of opportunities that we haven't had in the past." Since the auditorium already has a sound and lighting system in place, this allows potential use of the stage curtain and different sets. "Since we don't have to pay for the cafeteria [sound and lighting], that means that 100% of this year's fashion show proceeds can go to the American Cancer Society," says Pearce.

The show's organizers are planning on having three modeling runs divided by brief intermissions, with a change in backgrounds for each run.

Freshman and first-time Relayer Joe Green is looking forward to modeling. "I think it'll be fun; I get to dress up in fancy clothes." Sophomore Katherine Howard agrees, saying, "I was a little hesitant at first, but as time passed, I got really excited...[my modeling partner and I] need to work on our little skits that we do on stage, as well as go through who wears what and when, but I can't wait for the show!"

Pearce and Nanda expressed immense gratitude for Alexander Taylor, who has been helping them set up the auditorium and plan each modeling run. They would also like to thank Men's Warehouse, Le Club Boutique, Bill and Bob's Jewelry, Red Carpet Flower Shop, and Hair Excitement for assisting with the show and providing the models with clothing and accessories. "They really support us a lot each year," says Pearce of the businesses, "so please consider visiting them when you're shopping for prom."

"In my opinion, this may be the best fashion show to date," says Nanda. "We have a great group of models, and the theme will be really cool! Sadly I think most everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer, which is why it is so important to fight back. Even if you can't go, I urge you to buy a ticket or enter a raffle because every last bit can help a lot."

"I think it'll be fun. I get to dress up in fancy clothes."
-Joe Green

"In my opinion, this may be the best fashion show to date."
-Pranav Nanda



Left to right: Alexandria Trombley, Claire Hawkes, Katherine Howard, Natalie Sailor, and Payal Nanda try on their dresses.

(Photo credit: Pranav Nanda)



Do you think you know your teachers? Think again. All of the following stories are true!

TUITIONING

A CONTROVERSIAL DECISION TO CHANGE THE STUDENT BODY



Ian Avery-Leaf
Media Manager

they'll [the school board] face for the next 20 years." Right now, the high school holds 64 tuition students, but that number could expand to the school's maximum capacity, almost 300 more students.

Integrating Newmarket isn't the only option on the table; there are four possible options for tuition students, and one without any tuition students at all. While most people in the community are only focusing on Newmarket, negotiations will be held with two other neighboring districts as well. In addition to the 64 current tuition students, more from Barrington and potentially some Deerfield tuition students are options that are being proposed.

The main reason Oyster River has tuition students in the school is money, and a maximum of 300 tuition students will cause a significant increase in revenue. As it stands, the cost difference between the two schools is small, at \$16,303.61 for Oyster River and \$16,193.62 for Newmarket, according to Oyster River High School Principal Todd Al-

len. He also adds that not only would it be over four million dollars of additional revenue, it's a "guarantee all of our programs are full, and we wouldn't have to cut anything. That's the big plus."

Although high school programs are safe from being cut if the school expands, according to school board member Al Howland, alternate programs within the school, like the PEP program, aren't so safe.

The idea of expanding ORHS's student body has a lot of people worried, including students and teachers. Adding hundreds of new kids will inevitably shift the school dynamic. Social studies teacher Brian Zottoli says, "If you infuse 300 students into a school of 684 students, it's impossible not to have a change of culture in your school. It's not necessarily bad, it's just different."

"If you infuse 300 students into a school of 684 students, it's impossible not to have a change of culture in your school. It's not necessarily bad, it's just different."

-Brian Zottoli

While the Oyster River students have their ideas and stigmas, and the Newmarket students have their own, there is one ORHS student, sophomore Kirsten Weiker, who has the unique perspective of attending both schools, and knows more about how both sides than any administrator could. On one hand, Weiker agrees with Principal Allen that the integration would be great financially, but another scary truth is how Newmarket students feel they might be judged by Oyster River stu-

dents. The general view at Newmarket is that Oyster River is a more upscale school in comparison, and "they are worried that they aren't going to be liked by [Oyster River] students," ex-

Tuitioning Options:

1. No tuition students

High school course options become limited, Curriculum becomes far more limited, Class size likely to increase, Cost per student increases, Staff lose jobs, Inefficient use of a beautiful facility

2. Accept only Barrington students

Likely will fill only 1/3 of available seats, They are already attending, The students who have attended have represented their town well, They have choice to attend other school systems

3. Accept only Deerfield students

Fills 2/3 of available seats, No high school therefore less transition issues, Will need to hire staff, Helps maintain current program and philosophy

4. Accept Barrington and Deerfield

Fills most available seats, Allows ORHS to maintain and expand academic programming, Will need to hire staff, Do not have own high school therefore less transition issues, Barrington enrollment not guaranteed, Helps maintain current program and philosophy

5. Accept only Newmarket students

Fills all available seats, Allows ORHS to maintain and expand academic programming, Stable, long term relationship, Willing to pay more per student, Newmarket High School exists so transition issues likely, Will need to hire staff, Helps maintain current program and philosophy

plains Weiker.

Newmarket High School senior Anthony Bounphakhom would not be directly affected by any decisions the school board makes, but is "bummed" about the future of his school. "I don't get to look back and tell my kids this is where I graduated. Also my little sister doesn't get to graduate the same school as me, so she won't get to see graduating from a small class isn't bad at all. It's a good community over here." For Will Hamrick, a senior at Oyster River, the choice of a high school after graduating from Barrington Middle School was an easy one, despite paying tuition out of his own pocket. "I don't like the atmosphere and the people at Dover. It wasn't my place. I don't necessarily feel welcome [at Oyster River] because of the way I live my life, but I don't feel shunned either."

Though some may be worried that these changes are happening too fast, the proposals would not come into effect until the 2014-2015 school year. "Legally, the school board has the power to decide, but as far as I know, they want the community to be involved in the decision," says Allen. The decision as to what direction Oyster River will be taking with regard to tuition students will hopefully be hashed out by this June, according to Howland, and will ultimately be made by the seven school board members.



The PEP program's playground cost the district money, and it will now cost more to remove it when PEP finds a new home.



Chase Klewicki
Guest News

"It's a coffee house whose mission essentially is to raise money and awareness to end human trafficking," shares General Manager of the Freedom Cafe, Sean Matthews.

The Freedom Cafe is a coffeehouse with a cause. The cafe opened at the beginning of February in downtown Durham with the aim to provide Durham residents and UNH students with a laid back coffee house where they can learn about stopping human trafficking. It is a non-profit organization serving fair-trade organic coffee and tea free of charge. The cafe offers suggested donations for each cup of coffee and 75% of what is donated goes straight to the Stop the Traffic charity organization. The cafe is located at 10 Mill Road and is open from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This is only the second Freedom Cafe; the owners got the idea from the original Freedom Cafe in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Being a nonprofit organization, the Freedom Cafe relies heavily on donations and volunteers and is encouraging the public to chip in. "We need community members to keep us open, and we want this to be a community staple," states Matthews. The Freedom Cafe offers a variety of ways for community members to help out, varying from being a "freedom drinker" by simply

"It's a coffeehouse whose mission essentially is to raise money and awareness to end human trafficking." -Sean Matthews

supporting

the coffee house, reading the newsletter and raising awareness, or becoming a "freedom worker" and actually working shifts at the coffeehouse.

Volunteering is easy to do and very laid back, with only two hour shifts and the opportunity to gain great knowledge about both coffee and human trafficking. In order to find out more contact Sean Matthews at Sean@freedomcafenetwork.org or simply stop by the cafe and talk to one of the baristas.

One of the main attractions of the Freedom Cafe is the Perform Freedom Event. The Perform Freedom event occurs every Wednesday from 7:00 to 10:00 at night and is three hours of music, poetry and all other kinds of performances. Performer Jared Rocco vouch-

es for the Perform Freedom Event, saying, "It's a very cool setup with a chill environment and obviously supports a great cause." The night kicks off with the first hour entailing three different twenty minute scheduled performances. The next hour is an open mic, and the final

hour is an informal jam session. The Freedom

Cafes grand opening began with a Preform Freedom Event where they raised \$101 in the first night to end human trafficking.

"The vision is very simple, come get a coffee and learn," states Matthews. Ac-

ording to Matthews the money is important and will help in the fight against human trafficking, but he believes that even more important is raising awareness. "I would trade \$500,000 from 1000 people for \$5000 from 5000 people," emphasizes Matthews. He wants the Freedom Cafe to be a place to learn, and a place where we can ask questions like: where did this come from, how did it get here, and how is my dollar bill broken

down?

So whether it's just to grab a cup of coffee or you're looking to support a cause, stop by the Freedom Cafe. It could make a difference in your life and hundreds of other people's lives.



Jared Rocco at Perform Freedom Event.



He also plays bridge and has traveled to France at least 20 times.

'TIL THE DATE DO US PART

THE GRADUATION DILEMMA AT ORHS



Corey Scarano
News Editor

"Yesterday alone, I answered over twenty emails," states Superintendent Dr. James Morse, regarding the recent graduation date change at Oyster River High School.

On March 19th, Oyster River High School had its 6th snow day of the year. Under state law, graduating seniors may be dismissed no more than the 30 instructional hours (five school days) prior to the end of school for underclassmen. This law caused graduation

to be pushed back from June 7th to June 14th, so seniors are able to finish their required schooling.

With graduation being less than three months away, many families have already made plans for the previous date of the 7th. Students are complaining that the new date is very inconvenient and completely unfair to them. Usually, when too many snow days are granted, there are different ways seniors can make up the time to still graduate on the given date. However, in a letter Principal Todd Allen sent out to all seniors and their families, it addressed every option with an explanation of why it would not work. Some of the ideas given were: making up days during April Break, having seniors go to Saturday school, and adding 30 minutes on to every school day for the rest of the year. While Allen gave reasons for why each proposition would not work, the biggest obstacle was the amount of time seniors need to make up. Unlike past years, the amount of time to make up is five days instead of one.

Senior Frederik Svanholm states, "I think it is completely irrational that the school board assumes that changing the graduation date so close to the planned date is enough time for our families to reschedule plans." But even with this frustration, Svanholm notes that, "at the same time no one should have planned the date so far ahead of time without even taking it into consideration that snow days could end up changing the date when in reality none of us even knew this was a possibility."

Principal Todd Allen explained that in the school calendar it states that all dates are subject to change. He expanded on how we live in New England, and weather is crazy and unpredictable a lot of the time. Another concern he had

"There are many students who are just ready to leave and will argue any point to keep graduation at the 7th."

-Brennan Young

is that there is still possibility for even more school to be canceled due to rain days or storms. Since there were so many factors in this decision, Allen explains that, "we were put in a really difficult set

of circumstances. When do you say enough is enough and just announce the change?"

Senior class president, Brennan Young, states, "It is understandable that with something like graduation being moved, there will be an initial upset attitude, but some of us were not being reasonable. There are many students who are just ready to leave and will argue any point to keep graduation at the 7th, but unfortunately that's not a point worth arguing in my mind." But Young also sees the legitimate concerns, noting that, "on the other hand, there are definitely some people who have great opportunities starting that week after graduation and are now faced with the

possibility of missing the day they have worked towards for 12 years."

Morse and Allen were in agreement that all the concerns regarding the graduation change were legitimate and they completely understand. The main concerns that were expressed to them were traveling plans, work schedules, and family conflicts. Dr. Morse stated, "I wish we didn't have to do this, but I don't think it is a matter of opinion. It is the state law."

Senior Autumn Jules explained, "At first I was really annoyed because I thought they didn't really consider any other options like they have in past years, but now, although I still definitely want it to change back, after talking to a lot of teachers I realize it's not their fault and that they are just following state laws which obviously no one can change."

After a school board meeting April 3rd, a motion was passed to further discuss moving the date back to June 7th, however logistically it seems unlikely because plans are now being adjusted to accommodate the new date of June 14th.

"I wish we didn't have to do this, but I don't think it is a matter of opinion. It is the state law." - Dr. James Morse



Senior Mandi Lathrop is confused as to how many days are left until graduation.



Emma Salvati
Guest News

The Durham Public Library: a quiet area nestled in between Wildcat Fitness and Domino's Pizza. It is a place to find books for school, computers

to use, entertaining magazines, or movies to rent out. In 1958, the current Durham Library came into existence after becoming separate from the University of New Hampshire's Diamond Library. It is now a place for anyone to come in and find a book to read, and for kids to have story time in the children's section or do arts-and-crafts. Even though the library has been in the same location for more than a decade, there have always been some concerns about the lack of space.

It was back in 1997 when Durham established a Board of Trustees in order to start planning for a new library. Now, almost 16 years later, the new library is close to being finished.

The design for the new library began in September 2010. Fundraising started in April 2011 and the goal was achieved by December of that year. The construction started on July 23, 2012 when a house was bought on 49 Madbury Road. Part of the house was then demolished and many sections were added on to it. It is planned to be 10,500 square feet, and there will be new sections, a café, and possibly even a room with a fireplace. It will consist of two floors and a basement, complete with an elevator.

Doug Bencks has been chair of the Library Board of Trustees for seven years now, and has been researching designs for the library since 2010. "We looked at several public libraries that had been built around the State of New Hampshire in recent years. We also did some careful planning for what we would need in our library. With public input we then began the design process of a new library that is completely different than what we currently have."

DURHAM'S NEW LIBRARY



One of the biggest differences between the new library and the old is the amount of personal space. "We need a place where the public feels comfortable," says Library Director Tom Madden. "There just isn't enough room here for everything." Madden goes on to explain how cramped the current library feels. The staff room is in a small corner in the back of the building blocked off by a book shelf, and the meeting room is the reading lounge in the front of the library. "We

"We need a place where the public feels comfortable."
-Tom Madden

have had to turn off some of the lights so people don't walk in while we are having a meeting," says Madden.

Bencks adds that there will be an added 66% more space compared to the old library, and many new rooms, including "a children's activities room, a community room for up to 100 people for various types of events and activities, small group study rooms, a young adults room, a local history room for small meetings... more comfortable seating in quiet spots, and adequate space for the staff to do all of their work." The main idea of the new library is for a comfortable spot for the public to spend their time. Bencks says it's a good place for middle schoolers to hang out, parents to bring their children, and for friends to hang out and read.

In the new library there will also be a larger amount of books and resources available to the public. About 10,000 books are to be added to the collection of 30,000, which will not even be enough to fill the new library's shelves. In addition, there will be more computers for each demographic; adults, teens, and children. The library will also be extending its hours, says Madden. "We are cur-



The new library is an addition to an old house.
(Photo courtesy of Hana Bartos)

rently open 38 hours a week, now it will be 48 hours, and we will also be adding two additional staff members."

Sophomore Emily Croot is excited for many things about the new library. A frequent visitor, Croot looks forward to having more space, so different sections would be spread out, and so books would be more organized. "Presently the adult section sort of melts into the teens/young adult books which in turn melts into the children's section. The children's nonfiction barely is almost used as a storage space, it's kind of sad seeing all these great, fun books gathering dust because we don't have enough room."

Another important aspect of the library is its new location on Madbury Road. "It'll be great being able to just head from school directly to the library," says Croot. "But it's still close to downtown."

Marissa Flynn, a sophomore, is a member of the book club at the library, alongside Croot. "I go to the library probably on average once a week, depending on whether I'm going to book club or volunteering," says Flynn. She is looking forward to the new library because it will be closer to the high school and there will be more space. "I think they mentioned food would be available," she adds.

A new public library for Durham has been much anticipated for years. The new library is in the final stretch of construction, and it is planned to be completed in about three months.



Current library on Mill Road.

Mrs. Machanoff is pregnant. (Who knew?)



"LEGALLY BLONDE" COMES TO ORHS



Adelia Couser
Editor in Chief

"It's about a fashion-obsessed sorority girl who transfers to Harvard to get the man of her dreams," says technical director John Meredith of the 2013 school musical. "This year's [cast] is a great group - they are energetic and talented and they are going to put on a fantastic show."

Legally Blonde, a play based on a 2001 movie of the same name, follows the story of Elle Woods (played by senior Jennifer Taylor) as she pursues her ex-boyfriend Warner Huntington III (senior Liam Wiberg) to Harvard Law School. There she encounters challenges such as snobby classmates, difficult courses, and the brutal Professor Callahan (senior Nathaniel Spence). However, she is aided by her sorority sisters, Callahan's teaching assistant Emmett Forrest (senior Austin Arsenault), and a beautician named Paulette (sophomore Marina Schwadron) to overcome these obstacles and find success and love.

"I'm ecstatic about doing *Legally Blonde* this year!" says Jennifer Taylor. "It's the only musical I've ever been obsessed with, and Elle is my dream role. It's a challenging part, and if I can do it justice it will truly be a dream come true."

Taylor explains that while the plot of *Legally Blonde* is strong and its songs are well-written, the musical sometimes get a "bad rap" because it seems silly. Her castmate Austin Arsenault has similar concerns,

stating, "I'm worried that it's considered to be a chick-flick type show and some people won't be interested, unlike past performances." However, Arsenault says that he is "pumped" to be a part of *Legally Blonde* and looks forward to watching the show come together.

Director Meredith Freeman-Caple is also happy about this year's musical. "One thing I find interesting is that the show incorporates a lot of stereotypes as characters and makes fun of them, in a way," she says, referring to the "Valley Girls" from California, cliché Harvard students, and the not-so-dumb-blond Elle herself. And although there are obstacles such as hiring a choreographer (Alden Caple), a musical director (Kathy Fink), and arranging time to

build the set and prepare the lighting, she is confident that the cast and crew can handle it with little trouble. "This year's cast is great," Caple says, adding, "It's 47 people, which I believe is the largest cast we've ever had."

The 47 cast members of *Legally Blonde* rehearse directly after school almost every day for hours at a time, and this can present problems in terms of homework or conflicting sports practices. While Arsenault acknowledges that he is doubtful about the scheduling, he says that in past years he has talked to teachers if any major projects or tests come up. Taylor, now a four-year musical par-

ticipant, has also worked out a system: "I find the best way to balance school and rehearsals is to make use of all the breaks and lulls in a rehearsal... you can't procrastinate." She also dances outside of school and admits that participating in the musical forces her and her castmates to miss occasional rehearsals or dance practices, but she manages to split her time evenly between the two.

In addition to the cast, there are a handful of students at work behind-

the-scenes during the musical to make sure all lighting, sound, props, and set changes are functioning properly. "We can always use help on the technical side of the musical," states John Meredith, "and if anyone is interested they should talk to me, Morgan Smith, or Mrs. Caple and we will find something for you to do."

Even though the challenge of putting together a show in just four months may seem daunting, stage manager Morgan Smith is confident that the ORHS theater crew can pull it off. "I'm sure if something does go wrong, our fantastic drama department can come together and fix it," she says. "What we do is not only crazy fun but super rewarding. Ask anyone involved with theater and they will tell you that the ORHS drama department is the most spectacular thing they have encountered."

Legally Blonde will be performed at ORHS on May 23rd, 24th, and 25th at 7:00pm with a matinee performance on the 25th at 2pm. Ticket prices will be announced soon.

"This year's cast is great. It's 47 people, which I believe is the largest cast we've ever had."

-Meredith Freeman-Caple



Junior Natalie Sailor practices a dance move.
(Photos courtesy of Madi Clement.)



Legally Blonde cast members pose after completing the run-through of a song.



Mrs. Emrich danced to "Do It to Me" by Lionel Riche at her wedding.

READ ACROSS AMERICA



Zach Park
Guest News

Smiles filled Mast Way classrooms as high school students read to energetic little kids. A positive vibe was spread throughout the school. On February 18th, Oyster River High School athletes brightened the day for many Mast Way students.

The boys' and girls' basketball teams and the seniors from the girls' and boys' hockey teams went to Mast Way Elementary School to read to numerous classes as part of Read Across America. The students spent the afternoon reading children's books and socializ-

ing with the kids.

Barbara Jasinski, the coordinator of Read Across America at Mast Way, believes there is a lot of value in the week-long celebration. "The main purpose of Read Across America at Mast Way is to bring members of our school and the large community together to celebrate the importance of reading in our lives," she says.

Senior hockey player Griffin Sperry says, "The kids really enjoyed it because they have seen us play and look up to us."

Basketball player Sam Lewis agrees, stating, "Without a doubt, kids are always looking for role models, and if they find it in one of us, then great!"

The athletes read short children's books varying from *Where the Wild Things Are* to *The Cat in the Hat* to a group of three or four kids each. The student athletes were encouraged to be friendly and get along with the kids. Colby Runk expressed how this day impacted him: "I love being around young and energetic kids. It really was a good experience. I also got to read some of my favorite children's books from when I was their age."

The main purpose of the event was to promote the benefits of reading to young kids. It was a really effective way for the student athletes to give back to the community that has helped them so much along the way.

Read Across America is a nationwide community service act that not only teaches the high school student athletes a lot as well as the elementary school students. This is something that Oyster River and Mast Way plan to keep and use going forward.



OR Boys' Basketball showing off their team spirit.



OR Girls' Hockey repping with their away jerseys.

TO RANK OR NOT TO RANK THAT IS THE CLASS QUESTION



Corey Scarano
News Editor

"Class rank is a way to measure students compared with their peers, which can both be good and bad," states senior Pranav Nanda.

Oyster River High School currently has "class rank," a system that places every student in a grade in order according to their GPA. Although class rank has been in place for a while, there are always questions being asked on its legitimacy. Specifically, if there are no weighted grades at Oyster River, how accurate can it really be?

Senior Molly McQuade argues, "[Class rank] is stupid because rank and weighted grades go hand in hand; you can't have one and not the other."

Senior Mandi Lathrop agrees, "We don't

have weighted grades so it [class rank] isn't accurate. I don't think it really matters where you stand against other people. You don't need to know how others are doing to measure your own success."

Student Senate member John Parsons, states, "I don't think class rank is fair in the manner it has been implemented. I think it is good that our GPA scale goes up to a 4.33, but it is bad that we do not provide any advantage to people who take more challenging courses. There is no incentive to push yourself other than self-motivation, and the end result is that your rank looks bad on a class transcript if you take challenging or AP-level courses instead of

standard college prep courses."

There has been talk of getting rid of class rank all together at ORHS. There has also been talk about adding weighted grades at ORHS. Parsons says that although there has been talk about changing class rank, and possibly adopting weighted grades, there won't be any change unless there is a strong push from the students.

Athletic Director Corey Parker, sums up his thoughts in saying that he thinks class rank is beneficial sometimes, but with some school's new philosophies it isn't always

accurate. He hopes that colleges are not investing in them as much as they used to, and that there is always consideration for change and evaluation regarding class rank.

"I don't think it really matters where you stand against other people. You don't need to know how others are doing to measure your own success."
- Mandi Lathrop



17-year-old Mrs. Sekera (formerly Mrs Seaman) lost a set of eyelashes at a basketball game after being elbowed in the face.

THE BATTLE OF TROY



Adrian Schidlovsky
Guest News

On September 11, at around 1:30 pm, Michael Troy collapsed while teaching a mechanical class.

"I had an unusual attack of influenza against my heart," says Troy. "The influenza shut off my heart, causing cardiac arrest."

"They had five cardiologists that worked on me." He was surrounded by family in the hospital. "My two sisters who are nurses, and my wife, who is an EMT were there when they woke me up," Troy explains. "They anticipated brain damage." According to Troy's Cardiologist, only 1% of cardiac arrest patients make it, of the 1%, 30% have brain damage when they awaken.

Troy has changed the dynamic of wood shop, and the attitude of the whole school as well. "Because

of Troy, I actually enjoy showing up to school," says senior Fred Marshy. "If it weren't for Troy, I would never have found the career path I have chosen."

There is no doubt that we are happy to have Troy back, but Steve Woodruff the substitute for Troy was gracious to take his position for the six months. "I am grateful to Mr. Woodruff for taking my position while I was gone, he had no prior experience in the education field, only in machinery," says Troy. "If it weren't for Mr. Woodruff, the shop would have been shut down."

Woodruff and Troy have known each other for several years.

"The one thing I would say about Mike Troy is that he brings out the best in his students, he motivates them, and as I found just by subbing for him, the students are less interested in the topic, than they are with Mike," said Mr. Woodruff.

Forrest Hoffman, a graduate of the 2011 class, knows this firsthand. "Troy is an inspiration... I could not put a value on the impact he has made on myself and other students lives."

Hoffman admits, "Oyster River High School was not for me, and I don't think I would have made it through without a couple of his classes each semester. That school needs him because he is the only blue collar American they know. Without Troy, I don't know where I would be because I wouldn't have discovered the career path that I chose," adds Hoffman.

The way Troy interacts with people is the reason so many people enjoy his presence, and that so many people know and respect him. The news of Troy spread all the way to Key West, Florida. Troy has touched so many people

"Mr. Troy is an inspiration...I could not put a value on the impact he has made on myself and other students lives."
-Forrest Hoffman



Mr. Troy hard at work in his shop class.

in his own special way. It seems like everyone knew about what happened.

"He is my favorite customer by far," Eva Gibbons, assistant manager of Durham Dunkin Donuts says. "He puts a smile on my face every morning."

In an interview with one of Troy's best friends, Oyster River art teacher Tim Lawrence, it was obvious the kind of man Troy is. Lawrence describes him as "that kind of guy, even if he hates you to death, he will always come through to help you."

While Troy was out, his reputation as an excellent teacher continued, current students such as Zhanna Drum finally got a chance to experience it for themselves. "I heard that he was a good teacher and a very kind soul, he truly does make the class so much better."

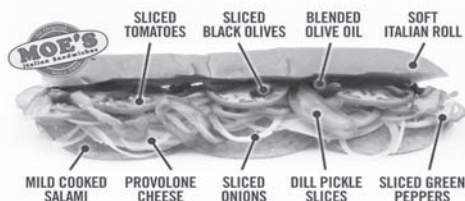


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Zach Park
Guest News

The bright lights illuminate the field on a cold Friday night. Screaming students pack into the stands cheering and representing Oyster River blue and white. The start of Oyster River

football could be coming soon.

Unlike many high schools in New Hampshire, Oyster River has never had a football team. There have been many football players from OR but they've had to play for a local club team or transfer in order to play the sport they love. Having football at Oyster River certainly has its positives which has encouraged many town representatives are attempting to make a movement to make it happen.

Athletic director Corey Parker has been in talks with Oyster River representatives and the school board in order to bring football to Oyster River. Parker would like to see a feeder team come in place before the high school team. Parker stating, "Fundamentally, I think creating a 7th-8th team (at ORMS) is our priority prior to a high school team." The problem seems to be that a 7th-8th grade team doesn't have much interest due to there being no high school team. Kids don't want to play football for two years only to have to give it up in high school.

Oyster River Youth Association Football Director Tom Burd is one of the many that are strongly for bringing football into OR. A recent school board meeting on March 20th held a 30 minute public speaking window and nine of the eleven speakers pushed strongly for a football team. Everyone from current high school students, parents and town representatives such as Burd took this time to talk. Students from the OR District ranging from 1st graders to sophomores in high school stood with signs saying "Support Oyster River Football" and "Let us Play Football". The main message was clear that the kids wanted an opportunity to play for their high school. Burd stated regarding a football team, "It's for the kids. They simply deserve a chance to play."

ORYA want some sort of a team in the fall of 2014 whether that is simply a club team or a varsity team. A club team would practice

and play local JV teams and gauge the talent level of Oyster River. ORYA brought an idea to have a club team for two years and then become a varsity team in the fall of 2016. This would give Oyster River the time to try to build their program before jumping right into the fire. With NHIAA football moving from six divisions to three divisions, an Oyster River varsity team would likely be in D-III. This includes playing the likes of Bishop Brady, Bow and Somersworth.

The benefits of having a team this coming fall would be that we'd have football at Oyster River and the current juniors, sophomores and freshman could play. ORYA also stated that they would be willing to fund a team. The school board, town representatives and Parker have worked with many different parties in order to have basic guidelines in place.

One of the negatives of having a team in 2013 would be the talent issue. There seems to be some interest in football as ORYA con-

in the decision. ORYA has stated that they would be able to fund a club team this coming fall. Burd made it very clear that the football team would be self-run and there would be no tax implications. Parker believes if there is a club started then ORHS would have to take over at some point as the team became a varsity team. "If we start this club, we go down a road that we can stay on. I don't want to take an approach of 'let's try it and if it doesn't work, it doesn't work.'" Parker stated that he, along with principal Todd Allen, would have to figure out a way to fund for a varsity team. Parker doesn't want ORYA to continue to self-fund the program but it would become another activity that the school would have to fund. In the March 26th issue regarding football, Julie Reece was quoted saying, "In times of declining enrollments and budget constraints, it would be grossly irresponsible for the OR board to start a new athletic program,

particularly one that is so expensive. Adding a sports program does nothing to further educational or academic goals at this point."

With the financial aspect of a football program comes facility usage. There simply isn't enough field space for two soccer teams, a field hockey team and two cross country teams. The initial plan was to be bused over to Wodridge and practice. The town of Durham has since questioned the idea of practicing there everyday in order

to maintain the current field condition and that is still up in air. There comes a cost with

that along with bussing to road games. The idea that has been swirling around is a complete facility improvement. This would include a turf field, a track around the field and lights over it all and would cost over two million dollars. This would be a move that would affect more than just football. Senior soccer and lacrosse player Aidan Conrad says, "This would be huge for the soccer team and lacrosse team. We can have a full field to practice on and don't have to share it with the girls' teams [during practice]. Makes sense for us and it's a great long-term investment." Parker has stated that this revenue improvement would be very important if a football team were to be put in place.

(Continued under "Football" on pg. 17)



Numerous students showed their support at the recent school board meeting on March 20th.

ducted a poll of students from grade 2-12 and 133 students expressed interest in football at Oyster River. Burd said that there are 150-200 in grades 1-8. Parker states, "My approach is you need 10 kids in each grade consistently, starting in 5th grade." If the numbers held up according to Burd, there is an average of 20-25 kids from grades 1-8.

Sophomore football player for the Seacoast Titans Davon Snowdan states, "I think we do have enough interest in a football team to obtain one. The only problem would be the talent. It may take a couple seasons to really see some productivity from the team." Fellow sophomore player Brendan McKenna disagrees a little saying, "We have a lot of talent and potential to have a great team. Maybe not at first, but the program will progress."

The financial aspect is another key factor

*"It's for the kids. They simply deserve a chance to play."
-Tom Burd*



SENIORS RALLY BEHIND SADIE'S



Cam Messer
Guest News

Is the loud music, humid air, dim lights and hundreds of students moving to the beat, a thing of the past? For the first time in over ten years, dances at Oyster River High School have been curtailed due to new policies instituted by the administration. With the new policy banning "sexually suggestive face-to-back" dancing, student response has been fairly negative. This past year only one dance was held at the school, which was the annual homecoming celebration.

After that, student interest was polled and there just was not enough to pursue another dance. But in light of the whole situation, the senior class decided to go forward with the dance. Senior class advisor Mrs. Healy comments, "We are getting to a point where we are running out of fundraisers." Sadie's in the past has been able to draw in around \$1,500.00 to \$1,900.00. This year, Sadie's only brought in \$400.00 to the senior class.

The attitude in the music and the cultural acceptance of scantily clad bodies seem to lend themselves to the concept of grinding. Ryan Kerrigan, a junior at Oyster River comments, "Certain types of music provoke certain behavior...you can't grind to banjo music." Kerrigan then

*"You can't grind to
banjo music."
-Ryan Kerrigan*

goes on to explain that this year's Sadie's theme was "80's Sadie's." Senior Rye Morrill was responsible for the playlists for the dance. "It is music that you can actually dance to," Morrill says.

Cultural classics such as 'Macho Man' by the Village People and 'Dancing with Myself' sung by Billy Idol were played during the dance.

Considering that the dance only brought in less than a fifth of the profits than past years, Healy considered Sadie's a success. "I thought it was really fun," she comments. Although it was the worst profit margin Healy has ever seen, numerous factors came into play in addition to the new dance policy. Ticket prices were lowered to try to bring in more people and the event date was pushed back a week due to a snow day.

Sadie Hawkins is the old time tradition of the female asking the male to the dance. Based on Al Capp's comic strip Li'l Abner from 1937, by the early 1950's the concept had spread like wildfire with schools across the country embracing the event. "I can remember that really happening and it was nerve racking for the girls," Healy recalls. But the concept has changed over the years as the dance is less of a couples dance

but rather just another regular dance held in the winter. Senior Becca Stacy creatively used song lyrics to ask out her date in years past. "It was really cheesy, I put it in his locker, but he said yes," she remembers.

This year, the Sadie's dance may be viewed in the eyes of the administration and students as an example for future dances in terms of revenue and student behavior. Senior Sam Warach comments, "\$400.00 is better than none, we did pretty well granted the circumstances. So will there be more loud music, dim lights and dancing bodies? I think it is safe to say dances hold a place in the future."



Seniors Kaeli McPhee (left), Lucas Bevins (middle), and Katie Levine (right) pose with excitement before entering the dance.



Senior Blake Caple (left) and Junior Amanda Souvannaseng (right) take their turn dancing for the crowd.

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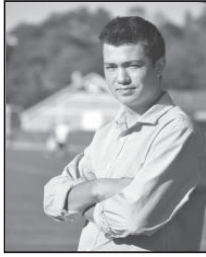
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OYSTER RIVER'S SECURITY SYSTEM



Adrian Schidlovsky
Op-Ed Writer

According to StopTheShootings.org, there have been 387 school shootings in the US since 1992. 510 total fatalities have been reported from school shootings, 300 victims were high school students, and 168 of the high school shootings were carried out by students that go to that school.

With the December 2012 school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, CT, many schools have reconsidered how to best protect their students. At ORCSD, Superintendent James Morse initiated a search for a new security system at the

high school. This new security system was installed to prevent intruders from entering the school, and requires any person to now buzz in at the main entrance if they try to enter the school between 7:30 and 3:15. The new protocol has advantages, but some staff and students still struggle with its drawbacks.

"When a visitor comes to the school between 7:30 and 3:15, They will need to buzz into the front office, then either Mrs. Miale or Mrs. Richardson would check the camera to see if there is any immediate threat," explains Principal Todd Allen.

Allen says that "Brian Cherry [facilities director] went out [in search of a security system] and it came down to what we could do in the short term." Allen continues, "so the fastest, most cost effective solution was the system we have in place."

The new security system costs around \$6,000, according to Allen, and with approximately 800 students in the high school, the cost of keeping the school that much more safe is \$7.50 a student.

There are questions concerning the effectiveness of the security system, considering the security system at Sandy Hook Elementary strongly resembles the one installed at ORHS. According to CNN, the intruder was still able to shoot through the door and enter the school.

However, it was clear that something had to be done. Assistant Principal Mike McCann explains, "after the Sandy Hook shooting, the su-

perintendent was thinking about ways to make our school safer. We were the only high school without an active security system."

The adopted procedure does create some problems. "It can sometimes be difficult when you are on the telephone, and the buzzer keeps ringing and they don't know to just open the door" says Susan Miale, high school secretary, "you have to put the person on hold to yell into the lock down intercom."

The new system doesn't only affect staff, but students as well. With open campus being a large part of the students everyday freedoms, buzzing in before coming into the school after their break, has created controversy. "I leave every day, just about three times a day. I will not buzz into my high school because they feel like they are keeping me safe," says an anonymous student. "I felt perfectly safe before the security system, but now that it is installed, I feel like I am entering a jail having to buzz in every time I need to enter."

Another issue that has been raised regards an email that was sent out to the community. This email announced the new security features. In this email, the community was made aware that if a student forgets something at the school, they have until 3:15 to retrieve it. After 3:15, they cannot be let into the building unless for sports, or another approved activity.

ORHS had a very similar security system in place before. The system consisted of a buzzing system, but with no camera, and was not connected to the doors. Instead of the intercom, it was connected to the telephones. The administrators are not aware of it ever being used, but it was built into the school with the intent of later use.

Facilities management plans to fix some glitches in the system this summer, one of which will be a buzzer outside of the school to let visitors know the door is unlocked. "I think in the long run, there will be a re configuration of the entry ways," envisions Allen, "a foyer that forces you to walk into the school while first being checked out."

SENIORITIS



Cam Messer
Guest Features

A disease that affects millions of Americans each year may have hit the north east earlier than expected. Its symptoms can be subtle and hard to identify but should be considered a huge health concern.

Cold and flu season is still in full swing

and there is a huge number of students who are infected and spreading their germs throughout Oyster River High School. I say the high school because there is a much higher rate of mouth to mouth contact that occurs throughout the high school than any other school in the district. The easiest solution to this problem is simply avoiding any contact with anyone or anything. But experts argue that even if this was accomplished, students would still miss school because of health issues. The question that lingers in the air, with all of the other germs, is this: could there be another reason why more and more students are missing from their classes?

Based off new research, experts have concluded that there has been a major breakout of Senioritis within the high school. Senioritis is an infectious disease found predominantly in high school students ages 17 and 18. Common

symptoms may include: headaches, drowsiness, and lack of motivation. Unfortunately there is no way of containing the disease once symptoms become visible.

Senior Brittany Daly is one of the senioritis sufferers. "There are those days when you don't want to do anything," Daly says. She also recalls missing ten days of school over the last semester. Although this is a mild case, Daly shows signs of the disease.

Unfortunately, Daly is not alone. A recent survey shows that 85% of upperclassmen are experiencing excessive to more than average *lack of motivation, and trouble waking up in the morning*. Motivation along with good looks are the keys to success and without it there is little hope. As students, we need to be motivated to learn something or we simply will not learn.

Kristina Wetherbee, a senior at Oyster River, has missed a substantial amount of school due to senioritis. "[Senioritis] has definitely negatively affected me. It's discouraging to miss a lot of school; you lose motivation that you don't have," Wetherbee says. She reports missing around 50 days of school this year. Despite her serious battle with Senioritis, Wetherbee is persistent with her aspira-

tions to go onto college; she hopes to attend Hawaii Pacific University to study psychology.

Biologist Jon Bromley shares his insights on the issue: "I have four senior level classes this year and I can see it [senioritis] in their eyes." Bromley can only give small suggestions to keep senior students enthralled in school. "Give them the motivation rather than have the teacher try to motivate them, but it is an impossible battle." Lou Mroz, a high school psychology teacher tries to be enthusiastic as an

educator to keep students motivated as the year closes. But Mroz says he can relate to the those suffering from Senioritis, "[In high school] I was ready to split, I was ready to move on."

It is a difficult and daily battle for those who suffer from senioritis. "Prevent it early," Wetherbee suggests. Senioritis is a serious health concern and is spreading fast. If you have any concerns regarding symptoms that may be related to those of Senioritis, please notify your healthcare provider immediately.

*"There are those days
when you just don't
want to do anything."
- Brittany Daly*

#TRENDING



Eliza Brown
Guest Features

Colorful neon clothing lights up the hallways of the school. The aroma of hairspray fills the air as girls tease their hair so high it could hit the ceiling. Sound familiar? Probably not. These are the trends of the 1980's and although some people still sport these rad looks, things change over the years.

Trends are a worldwide concept, some things happen to "be in" while others just haven't made their break yet. That's no different here at Oyster River; certain fads go out as quickly as they came in. While some students may be on the top of trends, others aren't so quick to realize. For those who feel as though they are always a step behind, here's what's trending right now.

Over the years technology has advanced immensely. One phone that continues to change and evolve is the Apple iPhone. Now up to the iPhone 5, it seems as if most students carry one of the generations of the iPhone. Senior Megan Comeau recently switched to the iPhone 5 after a couple years of dedication to her Android, "To be honest, everybody else has [an iPhone]. I was really against them for the longest time, I even tried to convince other people to get a droid but then I realized the iPhone is probably the best option there is."

Along with the iPhone craze come apps; new ones scale the 'top downloaded' chart every day. 'Snapchat', a picture sending app which only allows the viewer to see pictures for 1 to 10 seconds, got increasingly popular over the past few months and still holds strong. 'Instagram', a website used only for sharing pictures - often of food, sunsets or selfies, is another app used most frequently on an iPhone. However, one

app currently seems to trump them all. Just like 'Temple Run' and 'Llama or Duck?', the new app '4 Pics 1 Word' is rapidly taking over. This game gives the player four pictures to view and you must guess the word they're displaying using the letters given.

While apps like 'Snapchat' and 'Instagram' are withstanding the changing trends, '4 Pics 1 Word' is currently number four on the top free apps list on Appdata.com and is on the rise. It was estimated to have been downloaded over 19 million times by Xyo.net. Junior Claire Salmon reached the last level of the app at number 414 but still comments, "[4 Pics 1 Word] is just like 'Llama or Duck', it's a good app but it's just going to die in a week. They'll come out with better apps, and people will get bored of this one."

With all the social networks available now it's hard to know which to use. Based on a survey, the majority of those surveyed believe Twitter is the next big thing, surpassing its rival, Facebook. However, while the amount of Twitter users grows each day, Facebook still holds its ground with its many features. "Twitter is more fun to use but Facebook is more helpful when it comes to contacting people for school or sports," explains Salmon, an avid twitter user for over a year. One of the anonymous females surveyed

explained, "It seems a lot more in the moment, Facebook feels outdated." Although it seems more and more people are jumping on this bandwagon, junior Jeff Ahlgrim still refuses to give in to the majority, "When [Twitter] first came out it was the cool new thing but everyone

has one now, there's no point anymore. Now twitter is just about how many people are following you and how many favorite your tweets. That's all that matters, it's a popularity contest." Some students continue to reject Twitter but the majority of Oyster River seems to quickly be

converting into Twitter-followers rather than Facebook-users.

As seen in Adrian Schidlovsky's article "Pop Some Tags", thrift shopping is quickly catching on. It seems as if the moment "Thrift Shop" by Macklemore was released people dropped their shopping bags in the mall and ran over to Savers. One of those surveyed expressed, "No one cares...People will compliment items from Savers as much as ones from Aeropostale or even Express." Senior Mike Reed believes thrift shopping is a much more efficient way of shopping and expresses, "It's the cost factor. It's so much cheaper and you find the most interesting, comfortable clothes."

(Continued under "Trends" on page 22)

"...If you go to Savers and get a pair of bright red cowboy boots, you'll probably be the only one with those bright red cowboy boots."

-Liam Wiberg



Students take out their iPhones to play a quick game of '4 Pics 1 Word'.



Junior Andrew McDonald rocks his American flag sweater, a good find at our local Savers.



Andrew Gass
Features Writer

Doing an internship at the high school seems to be a hidden gem. Not many students know about it and therefore are unable to take advantage of the opportunity, but the ones who do come away with a whole new level of experience. Whether it is helping out with a teacher, the PEP program or maybe even working with a potter, the options are very open as to what one can do.

Mrs. Sekera (formally Mrs. Seaman) and Mrs. Healy are the two coordinators of the internship program and both do an exceptional job with it. They helped me set up two wonderful internships, one with Fosters Daily Democrat and one with an 8th grade teacher. Sekera has been with the internship program for about four years, and has seen the benefits it can give to the students who choose to partake in one. "I think there's a lot of benefits... students can explore potential areas of interest," says Sekera. I personally experienced this first hand, I was able to realize through completing an internship that journalism wasn't a career path for me.

Mrs. Healy has been a part of the internship program since it began in 2007; she attended Department of Education meetings about "extended learning opportunities" and believed that this could be implemented at Oyster River. "The benefits for students vary by person... in general I think it gives students a good way to see a little of the real world," says Healy.

On average, the internship program has about 8-12 students who are completing internships with various different programs around the Seacoast. The program is only available to juniors and seniors.

INTERNSHIPS

After each visit with whatever program you're doing an internship with, the student must complete a journal entry on Moodle about what they did, what they learned and how they are working towards the goals set in the beginning of the semester. Students are expected to participate in their internship 2-3 times a week, but it depends on the internship and student availability. At one point during the semester, Mrs. Healy will make an appearance at the internship to see what it is that the student does and to check in to make sure the student is happy.

Many students who are involved with the internship program help out with PEP program, mainly because of how conveniently located it is. Jen Haigh, the head PEP program teacher who is in charge of the students who do their internship with the program meets with the students to set goals and to learn what it is that the student hopes to accomplish. "A lot of one on one interaction will take place; we might give them a small group if they feel comfortable." Haigh loves having the interns in the classroom, and says they are celebrities to the younger students. One of the most important parts of an internship is growth, and that comes from the student being involved and wanting to learn more about the job.

Senior Peter Dube just completed an internship with Symmetry Tiles

Work, which is located in Epping, NH. Symmetry Tiles prints textures and different animals onto tiles. Dube helped out with various tasks but mainly focused on helping out with printing tiles. He has also been told that he will have the opportunity to have a job once they need more help with their shop. "I got a lot better at clay, and I learned a lot about the business aspect of running your own art business" says Dube.

"[It's] a great opportunity...it gives them a picture of what they theoretically could be doing further in their life." -Giles Huddleston

The purpose of an internship is to allow for a student to "explore a subject or career area outside of the classroom setting" according to the school program of studies handbook. It also states that it can be a great resume builder and can be used for an example during an interview. I think these are two of the best points that the internship program has to offer. Being able to put an internship on a resume and being able to mention previous work experience in an interview can strongly help.

Giles Huddleston did an internship with TurnRight during the first semester, which is a company that does career networking. Huddleston would attend meetings with the co-founders and would discuss how to optimize the site and to have people involved. "I think in general it's a great opportunity... it gives them a picture of what they theoretically could be doing further in their life."

Internships give students the chance to step outside the classroom, and challenge themselves with something that may be out of their comfort zone. Senior Addison Jones completed an internship at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, NH.

"The best part of doing an internship is that you get to do all kinds of hands on work with the staff, and you learn so much about yourself," says Jones. Dube is another example of a student who found their internship so enjoyable that they will be continuing work. While Dube currently doesn't have a job with Symmetry Tiles, he will be hired once they need help.

One of the best parts about an internship, I think, is how much you find out about yourself. It obviously depends on the type of internship, but for the most part, no matter what, you learn at least one or two things. Through my internships I discovered that I was no longer afraid of public speaking, I had to stand up in front of a class of 8th graders and teach.

All of the students who I spoke with have given the internship program high remarks and all of them strongly recommend doing an internship. The next time you're picking classes, think about doing an internship. While it may be different, it's a change of pace and gives students great insight into a possible career.



Senior Addison Jones helps out at her internship at the Seacoast Science Center.

She put the mouse in a box with air holes, threw the box out the window, and took the mouse home after school. She kept it as a pet for four years afterward.

CRASHED ICE 2013

THE SPORT WHERE PEOPLE ICE SKATE DOWNHILL



Aaron Slepian
Features Editor

Crashed Ice is an extreme sports event sponsored by Red Bull. The event world championships are hosted by Quebec City. The sport, ice cross downhill, became popular in 2001 when the first crashed ice event took place. Courses are set up in hilly locations from Switzerland to Canada,

the courses can span up to 500 meters, incorporating jumps, drop downs, sharp turns, and steep hills. The athletes are largely professional or semiprofessional hockey players, but there are a few who exclusively compete in this sport. The race tournament starts out with 64 competitors, 4 athletes skate through the course, trying to avoid falling, crashing and the other competitors, reaching speeds up to 43 mph.

I have been going to Québec City for many years and I have seen a wild assortment of competitions, from dog sled races to free style snowboarding to a winter pentathlon. Last year when I voyaged to Québec over a long weekend, what I saw blew all those over events out of the water. Crashed Ice was hands down the craziest sport I had ever watched. The skaters blew by me, bouncing off of the walls, knocking each other down, jumping over one another and flying through all the jumps.

After all the excitement I experienced last year I knew that I had to return again. This year was no disappointment. "It's an incredible event," says Drew Horton who has attended the event once before. "It's really unique." The course was even longer than it has been before and was the longest ice-cross downhill event ever, weighing in at 594 meters (0.37 miles). The track's starting gate was placed directly in front of the historic Statue de Champlain. From there it started winding down the streets of Québec City, incorporating rises, drops, jumps and sharp turns.

The first night of competition was new this year. It was a team race. Each team was composed of three skaters. Most of the team mates were from the same country but a few were international (The International Gladiators, Team Can-Am and others). Every team ran time trials in which all three skaters completed the course and their times were added. The eight teams with the best times progressed to the quarter final round. In the quarter finals two teams at a time raced against each other down the track. Skaters were given scores according to which position they crossed the finish in.

Four teams progressed to the semi-finals and from there two teams



Competitors going off of the "step up."

made it to the final round. The two teams competing for the first place prize were the Swatch Proteam (Switzerland) and the International Gladiators (assorted). The final race commenced and six skaters fought their way down the course and through the finish line. Swatch Proteam was ultimately victorious and claimed their prize as the fastest Ice Cross Downhill team in the world. "I didn't expect there to be a team competition, but it was definitely cool," says Horton.

The streets were crowded the night of the team finals. People were up against the barriers of the course, cheering, while even more fans sprinkled the blocked off street. Some spectators picked a spot and stuck with it and others wandered up and down the hill looking for the best vantage point.

This was hardly the case the next night, the night of the individual finals.

I showed up a little before the start time, seven PM, and the streets were already packed. "It felt a lot warmer the second night because it was so crowded" says Thomas Caulfield. People were practically shoulder to shoulder from the edge of the course all the way back to the buildings lining the side walk. There was a feeling of excitement in the air as thousands of thrilled spectators awaited the start of the first race.

Although this was the world championships, whoever won it wasn't necessarily the champion. The ultimate winner of the Crashed Ice tournament is determined by points. The athlete who has gained the most points through their victories or at least how they placed in races is the ultimate victor. Going into the night of the finals, American Cameron Naasz held the number one seed. But he faced strong competition from Canadian brothers Scott and Kyle Croxall and Swiss skater Derek Wedge. (Continued under "Crashed Ice" on pg. 22)

"The sport is barbaric but incredibly impressive."

-Damian Woodard



The "jumbo-tron" advertising Red Bull apparel.

SILENT SACRIFICE



Corey Scarano
Guest Features

"For me, Lent is something you do in appreciation for the sacrifice that God made for me... it isn't as hard as you might think. And there are a million different ways to do Lent," states Ariana Dawson, one of the many stu-

dents who participates in Lent at ORHS.

Lent is a Christian tradition invented to honor the time when Jesus Christ fasted for 40 days in the desert. Many people choose to give up something that is important to them from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday, which is around six weeks long. People give up all sorts of luxuries from caffeine and candy to the extremes like driving and technology.

Last year, Dawson chose to give up all electronics for the last weekend of Lent. She explains, "It was because of my faith and because I felt like technology had become a major distraction. I only did it for three days right before Easter. The idea was to focus on the sacrifice that God made for me without any other distractions."

With our generation being so attached to technology, Dawson explains the hardship. "I think the hardest part was not having the speed and convenience that I'm used to. Usually if I had a question for someone I could just text them or Facebook them, but even for the three days it was a little hard to be patient!"

Kayli Igoe, a senior, chose to give up coffee this year for the entirety of Lent for the same reason as Dawson, her faith. She says, "I gave up coffee because although I felt like it was something I needed every day I also felt like it was something I could do without and it was a sacrifice I could make- a good challenge."

"I gave up coffee because although I felt like it was something I needed every day, I also felt like it was something I could do without..."

-Kayli Igoe



Kayli Igoe wallowing in her desire for coffee.

Igoe usually drinks coffee twice a day, and recognized how difficult it may be to give it up for such a long amount of time but explained, "I really don't think I will cave because I am determined to see this through; there's no need to go back on it now."

For some people, it's more the idea of sacrifice that inspires them, not exactly religious beliefs. Reflecting on her Lent experience a few years ago, Resa Meyer says, "I was inspired to give up my mattress when a family friend told me she was going to do it as well, so I accepted the challenge. I'm not exactly religious, but I appreciate the concept of Lent. I thought sleeping on the ground would allow me to truly understand what I have."

Meyer did not sleep on her bed once during the time she gave it up for Lent,

and explains that, "the hardest part was definitely the back pain! I was sore a lot and it never really got better. But I never caved! I always kept to Lent."

Sometimes giving up certain things for Lent can actually lead to more than the six week fast. Meyer says, "I've given up meat before as well, which eventually turned into me practicing vegetarianism for almost three years."

While senior Molly McQuade is not religious; she has also practiced Lent to celebrate the idea of sacrifice. She gave up chewing gum, which she claimed she could not live without, and it "knocked the addiction right out!"

Whether Lent is being practiced for religious values, personal reasoning, or just because it is an inspiring idea, many people participate every year. High School Librarian Kathy Pearce sums it up by saying, "It is kind of like New Year's Resolutions; you make them to better yourself. Lent is pushing you to give something up, to sacrifice."

"FOOTBALL" (cont. from pg. 11)

An issue that comes with football is safety. Parker addresses this expressing, "The conversations with the basketball coaches will certainly be different than the one with the football coach." If there were to be a team, impact testing would absolutely be done the way it is with the other school sports. Concussions have been a pressing problem within football and numerous unnamed community and faculty members have expressed safety as a major concern.

Oyster River is known for being a soccer

school unlike many other schools in the state. Townies and many heads of the decision see the culture potentially changing if a football team were to come in. Mr. Thibault, science teacher and freshmen soccer coach, sees a culture change being inevitable. "With any sport with a large number of kids, there will be some change in the school. It isn't just football, this would be the case if a lacrosse or hockey team was coming in now," states Thibault.

Burd is very confident that if a

team was put into place and run and funded by ORYA that it would work out. Burd and other townies' voiced at the recent board meeting that a football team would next fall. He strongly stated, "This program will absolutely have success and will not fail."

It certainly looks like most of the mechanics to get football at Oyster River are in place but there are just disagreements within OR administrators and the representatives as to what the next steps are and how to go about things.

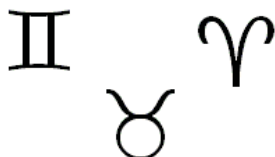


HOROSCOPES*!



Adelia Couser
Editor in Chief

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ARIES, TAURUS, AND GEMINI!



Aries (March 21-April 19)

MOR staff matches: None.

We all know how much of a Cinco de Mayo enthusiast you are, so why not start preparing early this year? Dig out your traditional Spanish garb and tweet President Obama asking him if you can hang the lower Spanish classes' Carnival banners around the White House in honor of the event. (While they're not quite the same holiday, it's the spirit that counts - plus the underclassmen did a good job this year.)

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

MOR staff matches: Zach Park (4/23), Adelia Couser (5/11).

Let's face it: you are completely addicted to caffeine. (If you're not right now, then you soon will be.) Unfortunately for you, your at-home coffee-brewer and every single coffee shop will break down within the next month, including Aroma Joe's, Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, Breaking New Grounds...everything. Good luck going through withdrawal.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

MOR staff matches: Cam Messer (6/16), Corey Scarano (6/19).

"In the spring, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." You may as well give Lord Alfred Tennyson a centuries-late high five, because this excerpt from his poem "Locksley Hall" perfectly describes your life right now! In the coming weeks, you will become infatuated with a Sagittarius. Try dressing up like Lord Tennyson, gigantic beard and all, and quote his poetry to them - they love things like that.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

MOR staff matches: China Wong (7/12).

Your Easter celebration this year was lacking in both spirit and chocolate, but fortunately you'll be given another chance! The Easter Bunny will pay a second visit to your house and hide several life-sized and somewhat terrifying chocolate bunnies around the yard as an apology. Just be sure your pets don't get to them first!

Leo (July 23-August 22)

MOR staff matches: Eliza Brown (8/4).

Some people are beginning to say that Jennifer Lawrence is becoming the new Zooey Deschanel, and luckily for you, you'll be able to find out in person! Still suffering from her fall at the Oscars, the celebrity will flee to Durham in an attempt to escape the overpowering depression and shame that has taken over her life. You will find her in your backyard curled up under a tree and sobbing her heart out.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

MOR staff matches: None.

Admit it - you've always been tempted to click on those "YOU'RE OUR 1,000,000TH VISITOR" ads, just to see what would happen. Next month you will finally overcome any reservations and win your very own Walmart! However, due to confusion with IP addresses and shipping, you will receive two tons of rubber ducks in various sizes and colors instead. The Walmart will be given to a five-year-old child who clicked on the ad accidentally.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

MOR staff matches: Ian Avery-Leaf (9/26), Mr. Kelly (9/27), Emma Salvati (10/11), Adrian Schidlovsky (10/12).

The April/May stretch of school always seems to last forever, right? Luckily for you, Timmy Turner from *Fairly Oddparents* will show up on your doorstep and offer to share his fairy godparents, Cosmo and Wanda, with you! Wishing for all your heart's desires will make the last couple months of school just fly by.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

MOR staff matches: Chase Klewicki (9/18).

While roaming the streets of Madbury and looking for adventure, you will let out a piercing, thirty-second-long scream of frustration and boredom because there's nothing to do in Madbury. At that exact moment, however, an impressed Quentin Tarantino will be passing by in his Chevrolet and hire you on the spot to be in one of his movies.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

MOR staff matches: None.

If a bearded Gemini (male or female) comes up to you quoting Lord Alfred Tennyson's poetry, don't be alarmed. In fact, you should dress up like the poet Sylvia Plath to charm them back - get your hair cut to match her hip 1950's hairstyle. The sparks will fly between you and your Sagittarius counterpart!

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

MOR staff matches: None.

It's never too early to start planning for Mother's Day, and this year MOR has the best idea ever: Prepare a day's worth of meals entirely out of Chef Boyardee products! 40-oz cans of Whole Grain Spaghetti, Beefaroni, and Mini Bites will grace your dining room table three times a day. What more could your mom want?

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

MOR staff matches: Aaron Slepian (2/4).

This month is going to be a good one for you! You'll always have a smile on your face, and you'll start greeting everyone you see in the hallways. You'll also start saying things like "Great!" and "Right on!" pretty frequently to express your enthusiasm. However, once you start pointing at people when you talk to them, you'll experience a very familiar feeling...fall to the floor, writhing...and stand up again with a huge appreciation for the Golden Rule. You have become Mrs. Raiford.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

MOR staff matches: Nick Lazar (2/24), Andrew Gass (3/2).

Congratulations! You have almost made it to the end of the year. Your challenge this month is to avoid teachers, because they're now in on the assassination-via-battle-axe plot. If they talk to you in class, pretend they don't exist. If they say hi to you in the hallway, turn around and go the other way. If an Aquarius who looks suspiciously like Mrs. Raiford does so much as glance at you, just leave school and go right home. Your grades may suffer, but at least you'll be alive. Good luck.

*Horoscopes are 100% accurate and determined from the stars and planets themselves.

DEAR MOUTH OF THE RIVER,

Next year I will be going away to college and cannot bring my cat. How do I keep our relationship strong as it is now? I will miss him terribly. -Cat Concerns

DEAR CAT CONCERNS,
The transition from high school to college can be difficult, especially when you'll be leaving beloved pets behind. Be sure to spend as much time with your cat as possible during the summer and reassure him frequently that you love him very much, (cats can actually understand English if you talk in a very high pitched voice.) In addition, take time to catch up with your pet when you come home on weekends or during breaks. If you're still worried, you could send him catnip-scented letters from college and call home weekly to talk to him.

How do I get a part-time job? -Wanting \$\$\$

DEAR WANTING \$\$\$,
Keep an eye out for places that might be hiring, especially fast-food restaurants and supermarkets. If you see a sign that says something along the lines of "Help Wanted," then ask for an application. Be sure to follow up after you submit it (either talk to the manager in person, email them, or call the store). If any of your friends have jobs, apply to where they work and ask them to put in a good word for you. Just remember that with a job comes responsibility: You have to balance it with schoolwork and social life and make sure that you're a reliable employee.

I've been having problems with eating lately - I never seem to be hungry, and on the rare times when I have an appetite I don't want to eat food. I'm scared that it'll spiral out of control and lead to an eating disorder or something like that. Please help! -Scared

DEAR SCARED,
Eating disorders are very serious because they can very quickly consume your life and compromise your health. It's important for you to get help as soon as possible - if you're not comfortable telling your parents, then talk to a close friend or teacher. The Guidance department is another good place to go, since the ORHS counselors are experienced at addressing these kinds of problems and will be able to get you the help you need. While reaching out may seem scary, trust us when we say that a full-blown eating disorder would be even scarier - it's one of the hardest things to recover from and it can result in death.

Ever since reading Daily Dose of Morin last year, I have fallen deeply in love with the gym teacher. Please help me. -Mad for Mr. Morin

DEAR MAD FOR MR. MORIN,
Let's be honest - with his physical education prowess, radiant good looks, and personal connection to the Backstreet Boys, John Morin is hard to resist. However, he is married and too old for you. Try to channel your feelings for him into something more like friendship. In the meantime, make a list of the qualities you find attractive in Mr. Morin and use this to find a guy more your age that would be perfect for you!

I really appreciate all my mom & dad have done for me, but I can never voice how much I love them. We always seem to fight over stupid teenage stuff and I end up saying things I don't mean. Any advice? -Parental Problems

DEAR PARENTAL PROBLEMS,
It's 100% normal for teenagers to argue with their parents - you're developing your own identity and preparing to live on your own, which is a difficult thing for Mom and Dad to adjust to. (They still remember you as the little kid that needed help reaching the countertop.) However, rest assured that parents *do* eventually accept the fact that their child is growing up, and the arguing will decrease. In the meantime, try showing your parents that you can be responsible by offering to do chores or make dinner - this will reassure them that you still care about the family and aren't just interested in getting out of the house. As for showing them your appreciation, try leaving little notes around the house or just asking them for a hug every now and then.

My teachers have it out for me. They always fail my quizzes and call me out in class even though I'm not doing anything wrong. How can I show them I'm not a bad kid? -Harry vs. Snape

DEAR HARRY VS. SNAPE,
What's your definition of "not doing anything wrong"? Even if you're not actively disrupting class, making snarky comments under your breath to your friends will lead to your teacher calling you out on it. As for failing quizzes, be sure that you're paying attention in class and taking notes so that you absorb the information. If you're still concerned, you should schedule a meeting with your teacher so that you two can talk face-to-face about the issue.

Can you explain how babies are conceived? And don't tell me about the stork. I know for a fact storks can't carry babies. -Seeking the Truth

DEAR SEEKING THE TRUTH,
Although here at the staff we are all strong believers in the stork theory, we know not all people buy it. Try searching your question on the internet and find Yahoo Answers's response. That way, you will get several different answers all from very intelligent people. Good luck!

A boy has been texting me for the past 3 years and I fell in lovewith him. He played me twice and I'm still not over him...what do I do? -Hurt

DEAR HURT,
Anyone who doesn't care about your feelings is not worth keeping in your life. If a boy "plays" you once, then it's important to talk to him about it and work out a solution - or just get over him. If it happens again, then he needs to go. Try spending more time with your friends, family, or pets to take your mind off of him. Delete his number from your phone and ignore his texts, because he's not worth your time. MOVE ON SISTA!

THE POWER OF YouTube



China Wong
Guest Features

free and you can find or watch pretty much anything you desire. From music videos to sports highlights, YouTube has something that everyone can relate to or enjoy.

Junior Gloria Hull believes YouTube is a great website. "The thing I like most about YouTube is that there are so many videos and I could never get bored. You can literally type in anything you want. 'How to' videos, math homework help, music videos, hair tutorials, etc. It's the best thing on the internet. I prefer it over TV most of the time and I am subscribed to 95 people," explained Hull.

YouTube was first founded in February of 2005 and is now one of the most visited sites on the internet. The most viewed video on YouTube is Gangnam Style (sung by Korean Pop Star Psy) with over one billion total views. Music is overall the most popular subject on YouTube. In the top thirty most viewed videos of all time twenty eight of them are music videos. Along with music, some of the most popular videos on YouTube are comedy. One of the reasons many people watch YouTube is because of specific personalities (groups and people) that are entertaining.

Senior Sam Lewis isn't an avid YouTube user but he believes that "it is very useful and very helpful in certain situations." Lewis uses it for mostly entertainment issues saying, "I usually use YouTube to listen to music or view a dance step I'm working on for a show." Along with many people Zack Jones also uses YouTube for music. "I mostly use YouTube to listen to music and look up songs," said Jones. With millions of songs available and free of charge YouTube is such a great resource for music lovers. According to Jones, "The most popular videos are probably music videos but there are also those random videos that go viral that get tons of views. With the ability for anyone to upload the chances of something going viral is higher. Whether it is a funny moment caught on camera or a sing-

Over the years YouTube has become such a huge part of our everyday lives. It is a phenomenon because of two main reasons. It's

ing sensation, videos seem to spread pretty quickly and rack up views on YouTube. Jones believes that YouTube is definitely something that is important in our everyday lives. "I think that it is important because videos are a very engaging medium and YouTube provides a very easy way to share them," said Jones.

Some other popular video genres (especially for girls) are fashion and beauty. Hull is an expert on this genre as she has been watching them for over four years now.

"I think that YouTube is important because videos are a very engaging medium and it provides a very easy way to share them." -Zack Jones



Gloria Hull watching her favorite YouTuber, Bethany Mota (Macbarbie07).

"I watch [these videos] because makeup and fashion are my passion and what I love to do. They're fun for me to watch. The girls I watch have such great personalities and make me laugh. They share their personal

"YouTube is the best thing on the internet. I prefer it over TV most of time." -Gloria Hull

lives with you, not just how to apply make-up. It's fun to relate to them and

learn more about them," explained Hull. The channel Hull views the most is MacBarbie07. This channel follows a seventeen year old girl, Bethany Mota, as she shares her beauty and fashion secret/advice. The chan-

nel has almost two million subscribers and almost two hundred million total views. "I love Bethany because we have so much in common. She's just so much fun to watch. She's relatable because she doesn't try to be perfect or professional. She's just your average seventeen year old girl and doesn't care about people seeing her act a little crazy," explained Hull. Some other popular beauty gurus are Michelle Phan (3.2 million subscribers 640.2 hundred million channel views), JuicyStar07 (Blair Fowler, 1.2 million subscribers), and MissGlamorazzi (Ingrid Nilson, 1 million subscribers). All of these girls post mostly the same types of videos.

Whether it's their opinion on a certain makeup or a video about their favorite trends, any teenage girl who is into makeup and fashion would enjoy watching these videos.

Junior Kaya Cooley uses YouTube as a way to unwind and de-stress. "I use it as a way to relax and laugh at something," responded Cooley. She also brought up a great point about the length of an average YouTube video. It can be difficult to make time to watch a TV show so YouTube is the perfect alternative. An average video lasts along the lines of four to five minutes which is perfect for someone who is always on the go. "You can literally

find anything on YouTube. The options are endless. It's easy, accessible and has everyone's interests. Also the videos are usually short which is good for our generation's short attention span," explained Cooley. The channels that Cooley finds most amusing are entertainment and comedy. "I'm subscribed to mostly comedy based channels, people like Jenna Marbles, jacksgap, and danisnotonfire," responded Cooley. She believes that people who have a lot of subscribers are, "typically funny, interesting, and creative."



Emily Vaughn watching "Bf vs Gf," her favorite YouTube personality.

Junior Emily Vaughn uses YouTube for entertainment purposes. Overall Vaughn is subscribed to 75 channels. "I like the videos that make me laugh. I watch them to amuse myself," said Vaughn. The channel that Vaughn views the most is "BF vs. GF." This channel follows the life of a young couple from New Jersey named Jesse and Jeana. The channel has over one million subscribers and over two hundred and fifty million total views. "I watch them everyday because they have normal everyday lives unlike reality TV shows. They are hilarious and love animals which I can relate to," explained Vaughn. The couple also has another channel called "Prank vs. Prank" (PVP). PVP has a strong number of 2.2 million subscribers and almost three hundred and fifty million total channel views. As Vaughn mentioned earlier she watches Jesse and Jeana because they make her laugh. That is why their channels have such a high number of views. "If you are having a bad day or if you just need something to make you laugh PVP and BF vs GF are perfect for that," said Vaughn. Both of these channels are filled with humor and "it's hard not to smile when you watch one of their videos."

The thing about YouTube that Vaughn enjoys the most is, "how there is a video for almost anything in the world. I also like how you can follow people along their journeys by watching vlogs [A vlog is a blog but in video form]. It's cool how dedicated people get posting videos every day," explained Vaughn.

YouTube is such a phenomenon that even teachers started using it in their classrooms. Social Studies teacher Mr. Cangello believes that YouTube is, "another great resource

Top 10 Most Subscribed Channels on YouTube:

1. Smosh (8 million)
2. RayWilliam Johnson (7.6 million)
3. Jenna Marbles (7.4 million)
4. NigaHiga (7.2 million)
5. Rihanna (Vevo) (6.8 million)
6. Machinima (6.5 million)
7. PewDiePie (5.4 mill)
8. One Direction (Vevo) (5 million)
9. FreddieW (4.8 million)
10. College Humor (3.8 million)

available to utilize better student learning." He enjoys it because of "its availability. It's quick easy and you can pretty much find anything you need." Cangello uses YouTube to show "short clips

to reinforce a lesson or even whole documentaries when available." He also uses it for students to upload video projects. "Students use YouTube to upload their final video projects so

I don't have to worry if a DVD or flash drive will play," Cangello commented. The second reason he uses YouTube is for music. Whether it's on a personal level or for a project in class Cangello loves using YouTube for musical purposes. "It's great to see all those old videos from the 80s. Very nostalgic," said Cangello.

Although YouTube can be great for educational purposes Cangello also enjoys the funny random videos as well.

"My favorite part is just the fact that you can pretty much get anything you want on there. There is some pretty funny, bizarre stuff you normally wouldn't ever see. I mean Llamas with Hats or Salad Fingers and Charlie the Unicorn. Crazy, odd, and somewhat pointless but it makes me laugh which is the best food for your soul," explained Cangello.

English teacher Ms. Horsley also uses YouTube to help visually show her class different subjects. "I use YouTube mostly for mass media. We deconstruct advertisements and create media to share with class. There are also some interesting posts on YouTube that aren't published elsewhere (ex. the Dove Campaign for Real Beauty)," said Horsley. She also uses YouTube to access music. "Sometimes I also use music from YouTube (without the video) as part of my poetry unit in poetry and fiction," explained Horsley. On a more personal level Ms. Horsley uses YouTube for a variety of different things. "I love YouTube for pottery making videos. I have a little pottery studio at home, and I enjoy checking out

YouTube for new project ideas and to troubleshoot issues I'm having with my own work. I also admit to watching funny cat videos on occasion," said Horsley. So whether it is dissecting advertisements or watching documentaries, YouTube is being used [by teachers] for so many different things throughout Oyster River High School.

Less than ten years ago YouTube wasn't even a website. It's crazy to think about how popular it has become and what a big part of peoples' everyday lives it is. YouTube has given normal people the opportunity to become bigger and more popular than even imaginable. YouTube has helped people express themselves and share their talents with the world. The great thing

about it is that anyone can post a video. You don't have to be famous or anything. If your video goes viral, who knows, you may become the next internet sensation and break-

"I like how you can follow people along their journeys by watching vlogs. It's cool how dedicated people get posting videos every day." -Emily Vaughn

out star. The concept of the power of YouTube is kind of hard to grasp. The amount of videos on YouTube seems

endless. You

can find anything you need just with the click of a mouse. Whether it's a tutorial or a YouTube personality there is something to satisfy everyone. Who knows how big YouTube will be or what next pop-star will be discovered but for now it will remain one of the most visited websites on the internet.

She would pack snack food for herself and Marblecake and ride over to her friend Kim's house. Kim also had a pony named Red Baron, and the four of them would hang out together all day.

"TRENDS" (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

Another senior, Liam Wiberg feels the same, but adds on, "If you shop at Macy's or American Eagle you'll find five or six other people in school with the same clothes. If you go to Savers and get a pair of bright red cowboy boots, you'll probably be the only one with those bright red cowboy boots." Wiberg also explains that although shopping at Savers may be gross, "You'll walk away with something people will notice you for."

As comfortable as they may be; Ugg boots are a thing of the past. You may still wear Uggs, most do in fact, but this winter girls seem to set their eyes on something different. A couple new styles began making appearances and now show up all around school; combat boots, Sorel boots, and tall leather boots. Senior Madi Clement has no problem with people wearing Uggs but stresses, "They shouldn't be first choice fashion but if you're going for comfort and warmth; then go for it." Each winter the styles change, right now these are the shoes to get. Last issue Zach Park expressed how underrated Nike Airforce 1's were in his Overrated/Underrated list; but now you can't turn a corner without seeing them. Another shoe that most guys have grown accustomed to over the past few years are Timberlands. Senior Patrick McDonough wears his as often as possible because, "They're steezy, and go really well with khakis. Plus, every girl is crazy about timbs."

Apps take over, downloaded by everyone one day and then deleted the next. Clothes are forever changing, and each person has a different sense of style that may not match up with what may be 'trending' but that just means you can make your own trend. Things change every month, week, and even day. It's impossible to stay up to date on every single fad, but it's always interesting to look back on what was in and look forward to what's to come.



Four girls sport their now-trending winter shoes while a couple guys rock their favorite Nike Airforce 1's.

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"CRASHED ICE" (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)



The first round was made up of 64 skaters from all over the world. They raced down the course in heats of four. Only the top two from each heat would progress. After the first round, all of the front runners were proving their worth, with a few other athletes putting their names on the board, most notably, Canadian Adam Horst, Canadian John Fisher, American Andrew Bergeson and Finish athlete Arttu Pihlainen, who had won the race in Québec 4 years in a row. 32 athletes progressed into the second round and once again fought a tough battle to make it into the quarter final round. Even at this midpoint of the competition, athletes had made quite an impression on spectator Damian Woodard, "The sport is barbaric, but incredibly impressive," says Woodard.

The quarter finals presented a number of athletes with issues. Tough falls resulted in loss of position and incredible passes made for unprecedented victories. But more surprising than all was the race of Cameron Naasz who held the first place position and was favored to win. Naasz started out his quarter final race with a near false start, pushing into the starting gate before it had opened. With a slow start he immediately fell to last place. Using his superior skill and expertise, Naasz was able to finagle his way into the second place position. Wesley Hutton's hopes were lifted as Naasz worked his way to the front "I really wanted Cameron Naasz to win" says Hutton. But within the last 10 meters Naasz made a fateful mistake. Coming to the last drop Naasz lost all his footing and fell onto his back. Acknowledging that it was too late to make up for this fall he lay on the course stationary in sorrow.

With the number one seat eliminated, 8 hopefuls moved into the semi finals. Two legendary races took place with memorable moves made. The surprise favorite, John Fisher, was edged out by the impossible competition and Derek Wedge made a mark on his opponents. Wedge faced a tough start as he fell within the first hundred meters of the race and had to make up his lost distance. With his memorable dreadlocks flowing behind him he started making moves for the first or second place position.

For the proceeding sections of the course Wedge would be unable to work his way through the shoulder to shoulder opponents. That is until they reached the "step-up" (a large uphill jump). Wedge worked his way into the inside edge of the course and with much momentum launched himself up, passing the second and third place athletes in the air. From there to the finish he battled the first place position with Kyle Croxall, Wedge eventually finished first by a hair. In the other heat, two other leading men came out victorious. Arttu Pihlainen and Scott Croxall snagged first and second respectively.

The final was stacked, with four of the most well known athletes competing for both first place in the race and the title of world champion. In an epic neck to neck race all four athletes sped down the course almost flawlessly, with the exception of Wedge who could not seem to gain his footing. Pihlainen crossed the line first, winning the final for the fifth consecutive year, Scott Croxall claimed second place and in an incredible display of athleticism and determination Derek Wedge took third. Third place was enough for Wedge to take the lead in points and award him the world championship title. Caulfield was not disappointed by the outcome; he's a big fan of Wedge and says, "I hoped that Arttu would win again."

DECISION OF THE DECADE: NEWMARKET NEIGHBORS



Chase Klewicki
Op-Ed Editor

Crowded hallways, classrooms upward of twenty-five students, better sports teams, and pep rallies consisting of almost a thousand students; this could be the scene at Oyster River High School if the district decides to take on the Newmarket High School student body.

Oyster River's enrollment in recent years has been decreasing and is projected to only continue declining.

Oyster River looks to fill those seats, while at the same time increasing budget revenue. One option is taking on tuition students from Newmarket at a cost of \$1,700 a year per student, according to Oyster River principal Todd Allen. The Newmarket school district has expressed an interest in sending its students to Oyster River, because in 2015 the Newmarket Jr. /Sr. High School will be closed by the fire marshal if the school is not rebuilt. The expense of building a new building in Newmarket would be around 47 million dollars and when broken down with the two hundred and sixty students that attend Newmarket, Oyster River High School appears the more economically sound option.

The main reasons behind the push for Newmarket students to attend Oyster River High School revolve around the budgeting of both Oyster River Cooperative School District and Newmarket School District. As of yet the notion has been very informal between the two districts although there has been a committee put together by Oyster River to meet with Newmarket representatives. The discussions have recently become more serious with Newmarket residents voting overwhelmingly that they would like to continue the discussions of combining the two districts. The budgets for both Oyster River and Newmarket school district will immediately benefit from Newmarket students going to Oyster River but some of the changes to the school may be a bit daunting.

With the budget in mind, we need to address some of the

changes that may come up with 260 new students entering the Oyster River School District, and decide if the financial incentives are justified. Two important factors in the Oyster River High school experience that may change due to the new students are the culture and academics of ORHS.

"More kids means more crowded hallways and less empty seats," comments Allen. Although less empty seats in classrooms may seem more efficient, it will also change the student

to teacher ratio, and create less flexibility with regard to student scheduling. As of right now many students at Oyster River benefit from

"More kids means more crowded hallways and less empty seats."

-Todd Allen

the ability to choose their classes from a wide variety, and experiment with classes over the first two weeks of the semester, dropping and changing classes. The additional students would fill classes and stifle class mobility, perhaps affecting student motivation and in turn the academics of Oyster River.

Another issue to keep in mind is the cultural difference between Oyster River and Newmarket. "[If Newmarket high students attended Oyster River] the cores would literally be split," states senior, Liam Wiberg. According to some of the student interviews at Oyster River it appears there may already be an animosity between the students of the two schools. Senior Sam Warach comments "I think there would definitely be a change in culture at Oyster River if Newmarket students started coming."

Whether or not the cultural differences of the two towns would be a major issue still needs to be explored, but adding 260 new students would surely change the dynamics of Oyster River High School.

Looking purely at the numbers, increasing a school from approximately 600 to 900 students, the Oyster River community would feel a change in the school identity. "Classes would not be as unified," shares senior, Dayne Sawtelle, and health teacher Rob

Quaglieri adds, "I just wouldn't know everyone in the school anymore." Oyster River is a tightly-knit high school, and drastically increasing its student population may affect this culture.

(Continued on page 27 under "Newmarket")

"Having more students invites more electives, more advanced classes, and might open up the curriculum."

- Rob Quaglieri



Newmarket Jr./Sr. High School to be condemned in 2015.



Mrs. Horsley and her husband recently set up a pottery studio in their basement, with a kiln, a wheel, counters, and a sink. She spends time there 2-3 days a week.

UNDERRATED CLASSES

AKA, FIVE COURSES YOU SHOULD TAKE AT SOME POINT



Adelia Couser
Editor in Chief

"That class looks boring...that's definitely too hard...my friend told me not to take that one..."

Does this sound like you when going through your Program of Studies? Have you already ruled out some classes to take during high school? If so, then this article is for you.

There are certain classes at ORHS that have a bad reputation for various reasons. Some of them sound like they'd be way too difficult, while others are off-putting because you have to read a lot or do a bunch of projects. However, I've come up with five classes with such reputations that are actually really interesting and fun. If you're an underclassman reading this article, then you should consider taking one or more of these courses at some point in your high school career.

1. Mass Media with Mrs. Horsley

The reputation: "There's a gigantic paper at the end of the course."

The thought of a ten-page paper with a minimum of eight sources probably seems daunting. However, do you think you'll just be writing two-page papers in college? Mass Media is a great class because it requires you to plan your time wisely and not slack off on writing and researching. In addition, it's interesting. "You learn about advertisements and their psychology, how they make you buy things," says senior Riley Batchelder, "which is something everyone should be aware of." In addition to the final paper, students create their own advertising campaigns and learn about the side effects of advancing technology.

2. Personal Finance with Mrs. Kishbaugh

The reputation: "I've never even heard of this course."

"Does the thought of living on your own sound exciting but scary? This class will help you gain the knowledge and skills to do so successfully," reads this class's excerpt from ORHS's Program of Studies, and this sentence pretty much sums up Personal Finance. "It's one of the most useful classes I've ever taken," says senior Blake Caple. Taught by Mrs. Kishbaugh, Personal Finance will teach you how to do taxes, buy a house and a car, balance a checkbook and plan a budget, pay for medical care, and learn about how careers affect income. "It's like a bunch of tiny real-life things from a bunch of different places all combined into one class," says Caple. "You learn all these little things that would freak you out in real life if you hadn't learned them before."

3. Brit Lit I and II with Mr. Brewer

The reputation: "The stuff you read is too difficult and boring."

British Literature is probably one of the less underrated classes at ORHS, but I think it gets a somewhat negative vibe because of the material you tackle. "We study literature all the way from Beowulf, which is about the eighth century, to the 21st century — that's about 1,300 years of literature," says teacher Martin Brewer. "Some people are daunted by how old the literature is — but I think that while technology changes, emotion never changes, and even the older stories are dramatic and exciting." In this course, you study stories from authors such as Jane Austen, Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde, and Emily Bronte. The class isn't easy, but you learn a lot about reading more difficult literature and writing papers. You also have the advantage of learning from a teacher from Great Britain: according to Brewer, "I can bring a level of understanding about the culture, and I have a passion for British history. People shouldn't be intimidated," he adds. "I think when they sign up for the course they'll be pleasantly surprised."



What is the meaning behind this picture???
Take Brit Lit to find out!

4. Acting with Mrs. Freeman-Caple

The reputation: "Acting is dumb."

If you've ever attended an ORHS musical, you've seen that those dancers and singers know their stuff. They're comfortable onstage in front of hundreds of people, they talk loudly, and they're confident even if they're doing something silly. Where do you think they learned it? "I would most definitely recommend Acting for all types of students," says junior Shanna Argyros. "Mrs. Caple is one of the kindest and most accepting teachers at ORHS...you learn how to step outside your comfort zone in a safe environment." Class time is spent reading plays, practicing scenes from those plays, learning about the history of Broadway, and even playing acting games like Party Quirks. "You learn how to act, yes, but you also learn about group collaboration and creativity," explains Argyros.

5. Anatomy & Physiology with Mrs. Best

The reputation: "It's an impossible class."

You may have seen Anatomy students staggering out of Mrs. Best's room with shadows under their eyes after having just taken a brutal test or presented a complicated model. "It is a challenging class," admits senior Courtney Desrosiers, "but it's worth taking." Anatomy and Physiology focuses on learning about the human body - including various systems, biomechanics, kinesiology, and the infamous cat dissection - and it's perfect for students interested in studying medicine or physical/occupational therapy. "In the beginning there's a lot of memorization and tests, which is why it gets a bad rep, but it really prepares you for what you're going to do in college," says Desrosiers. "As long as you study and keep up with the work, you'll be fine."

MCDONALD'S IS THE MCBEST



Aaron Slepian
Guest Op-Ed

I'm going to be honest: I really enjoy fast food. I know so many people who look at fast food like it's just a disgusting pile of fatty slop. While I am aware that most fast food

isn't composed of the healthiest or highest quality ingredients, there is no denying that it is extremely delicious and maybe slightly addicting. The population is pretty divided when it comes to opinion in fast food. Within the party of people who like fast food, it is divided once again. There's large debate over what the best fast food restaurant is. Whether it's McDonald's, Wendy's or Burger King. People have different taste in other fast food chains too: KFC, Taco Bell, Subway, etc. but when it comes down to it, it's between the three burger joint giants.

I've legitimately been asked too many times to count, "Which fast food restaurant is your favorite?" Every time I answer the same way: "McDonald's." For quite a while my favorite fast food chain was Burger King. I think this was because whenever my dad was on a business trip, my grandmother would take me and my siblings there and treat us to anything we wanted. So with Burger King I associated those happy memories. But as I got older my tastes got more gourmet and I realized that the quality of Burger King food was just lacking in some way.

That's when the shining light of the golden arches beckoned to me, drawing me in. After having been a Burger King connoisseur for so long I didn't know what to expect from McDonald's. After venturing into the dollar menu; ordering McChickens, McDoubles and apple pies I knew that if the cheap stuff was this good then the premium stuff must be fantastic.

I have faced a lot of adversity in my fancy for McDonald's. People challenge my taste, asking questions like "Why do you like the disgusting slop?" They try to change my views tempting me with the tastes of Wendy's or Burger King. A friend of mine, Tyler Sanders, often patronizes Burger King. "The quality of food at Burger King is just better than the others" Sanders says.

Senior Chad Burns has interesting views concerning McDonald's. "In the realm of



The outside facade of McDonald's in Lee.

fast food, McDonald's ranks pretty highly," Burns says, but his own reviews aren't as high. "Most of the time their product is sloppily thrown together, very quickly." He continues, "It doesn't stand up to the standards of Wendy's."

In order to defend my tastes I sought council in a very reliable source. Junior Logan Aldrich has been employed by the Newington McDonald's for about a year now and he has a bounty of information about McDonald's. "Everyone I work with knows exactly what they want from the McDonald's industry"

Says Aldrich, "They each strive to provide the customer with the McDonald's Golden Standard." I've been to all of the major fast food restaurants and I can attest that the service I get at McDonald's certainly trumps that of any other fast food establishment.

Unfortunately not everything Aldrich has to say are rave reviews, "Because of all the oils and stuff that you inhale as you are working there,

you can feel your life span decreasing a little bit." But to be honest I have very little invested in the life spans of McDonald's employees. As long as the food being served to me is warm and tasty I am more than satisfied with my

"They each strive to provide the customer with the McDonald's Golden Standard." - Logan Aldrich

time there.

I work in customer service just the same as Aldrich does and I know that no matter what the work environment is you need to provide the customer with the best service they can imagine. McDonald's truly excels in this department. I can imagine that it must not be the greatest place to spend your day but I am almost never dissatisfied with the service that I receive.

"I absolutely do not believe that their food is put together with the gold standard in mind" Says Burns. Burns doesn't find the employees impolite but he thinks that they are a bit "monotone" but this is simply because they have a "McJob".

I completely disagree with Burns' view of the food production at McDonald's. Although the preparation at McDonald's is by no means a five star restaurant I cannot complain. The incredibly high demand that McDonald's franchises experience on a daily basis puts the preparation "cooks" under much duress, and the simple fact that it is fast food doesn't cause me to put the quality of preparation under a microscope.

Of course McDonald's will never stack up against any real, sit down restaurant or even a place like Five Guys but I still find their food extremely tasty and never less than I expected. Compared to the other major fast food places, I think it's in a league of its own. McDonald's has a selection that no other fast food chain can compete with, what other restaurant has a major fan base that celebrates every time a limited edition meal resurfaces? i.e. the McRib. Not to mention the fact that McDonald's has the Ronald McDonald House Charities, as far as I am aware no other fast food chain does so much for charity.



A delicious meal prepared by McDonald's workers.

NOT-SO-FREE PERIODS



Emma Salvati
Guest Op-Ed

At many high schools, juniors and seniors are granted the opportunity of having some extra free time squeezed into their busy schedules. This lack of restrictions can often feel necessary to students who need a break from their busy academic day.

In order to graduate, each student at Oyster River High School needs to have 22 academic credits. If each of us follows the required curriculum, a number of people will graduate with at more than 26 credits, if as many free periods are taken as possible. If some people are graduating with more credits than necessary, then why are upperclassmen only allowed to have one free period a semester?

Currently, upperclassmen are allowed one free period per semester. This fairly new policy was put into place in 2011, where prior to that students could have more than one free period. Students are basically able to do what they please, within reasonable limits. Some common activities include studying, hanging out with friends, getting extra help, or (with open campus privileges) leaving the school and returning for next period.

When signing up for classes last year, I found myself asking, why am I taking classes I don't need? If I was able to have two free periods in one semester, that would be liberating. I would have so much free time; a gift I feel I deserve after dedicating myself to this school for many long, hard years. So how come I still have to fill six periods a semester, after already having enough credits and taking all my required courses?

Many years ago, Oyster River didn't even allow students to have free periods. Because classes were too crowded, students were eventually able to sign up for 'unassigned' periods. They wouldn't have a class, but they would still have to check in with someone at the beginning of the period. "I don't think kids should be able to have free periods anymore," says assistant principal Sarah Wotton. "There's no reason for them because we have enough space now." Wotton also explains how the school is accountable for its students, and not having them check in with someone at the beginning of their free period is putting the school in an negligent position.

There are many students who disagree with Wotton, saying that free periods are a rite of passage for incoming juniors and seniors. Most would be upset if these grants of freedom were taken away. "I would be mad because it's something you do look forward to once you're an upperclassman," says sophomore Ellie Lewis. Lewis also thinks students should be able to have more than one free period. "I think if kids get their credits done and are responsible about it then they should be able to have more than one, because they worked hard to get their credits...they should be rewarded with the free periods."

Sophomore Haley Bisson feels as though people might abuse their freedom if they have more than one free period. "One should be enough for someone," she says. However, she eagerly awaits having the free time. "I am definitely looking forward to it and I know other people in my grade are too!"

ORHS also used to require fewer credits than it does today. One of the biggest reasons for the increase in required credits and

decrease of free periods is to improve on graduation percentage. If students are required to take more classes than credits required, then there is more leeway when it comes to failing or dropping a class.

While the rule for one free period makes for a more stable graduation rate, there should be opportunity for students with a good academic record to take more than one. It should be a reward for those who can be qualified as good students. Like the open campus

"I think if kids get their credits done and are responsible about it then they should be able to have more than one [free period]."

-Ellie Lewis

policy, multiple free periods should be allowed if someone meets a certain criteria, such as a good GPA.

Stripping the high school of all free periods would be a poor decision on behalf of the administration. It would lead to backfire from students, who would protest against such a rule, and might start skipping more classes. Teachers might be in contradiction of it because they would lose free time as well. If Newmarket students were to start attending Oyster River, then the need for free periods would increase. There would be an exceeding amount of students in classes, and free periods would give teachers some breathing room.

I don't agree with the idea that free periods are unnecessary and take away from time that could be spent in a classroom. Upperclassmen are grateful for having a break from their classes. As high school progresses, the work load gets



Seniors Connor Grove and Anna Genes sit down and study during their free periods.

heavier, and most people take the free time to get extra work done.

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Andrew Gass
Guest Op-Ed

THE GREAT HAVE FALLEN

Famous athletes have everything going for them. They have the money, the fame and of course, the women. Fans look up to them and envy them for their possessions. They are the role models for millions of kids and even sometimes adults across the world.

After hearing that Oscar Pistorious had shot his girlfriend one morning, I began to wonder about athletes. I can't help but immediately think that Pistorious is one of the biggest idiots ever. His girlfriend was a model; he was on his way to becoming one of the most famous South Africans and one of the most known current runners in the world, aside from Usain Bolt.

Pistorious is the latest case of a famous athlete to have, well, basically just screwed up. Michael Vick is the first one that comes to mind when I think of athletes who have thrown their fame away. These two are far from the only ones though; it seems to be a common trend that at least two or three athletes do something of major consequence every year. I have no shame in admitting that I'm a huge Michael Vick fan. I don't agree with what he did, but I can respect that he was able to turn his life around after his incident with dog fighting. Vick was sent to jail for 23 months after having been convicted of being part of a group which conducted dogfights.

There seems to be a pattern that no matter what an athlete does, we as fans are almost always willing to forgive them. Pistorious killed his girlfriend, but I have a feeling that most people sooner or later are going to forgive him and wish that he could continue to race. The same applies for Lance Armstrong. The man cheated in a sport that is not as popular. Individuals wanted to see him succeed because of his battle with cancer, and while it may take time for some people, the fans that followed him through that are once again going to follow him despite his cheating scandal.

With all of these incidents happening, it raises the question as to why we as fans are so willing to forgive the mistakes of our idols. "We put

athletes up on a pedestal, as fans we want to see our teams be successful... we'll forget it because they'll help our team win" says P.E. teacher, Don Maynard. Well-known sports fan Cody Kondratenko has a slightly different take on the question. "I think it honestly depends on the crime... I do believe in 2nd chances, which is why for a minor crime, I could forgive them." Kondratenko views drugs as a minor crime and says if one of his favorite players were to be caught with drugs, he could forgive them. However, steroids are a whole new story for him "Steroids is a different issue, and I feel like players who do this, do this with the intention of getting a big fat contract."

Brian Contorchick (Ms. Drake's fiancé and assistant girls basketball coach) is an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan. When Ben Roethlisberger, the current Quarterback for the Steelers was accused of sexually assaulting a woman in 2009, he wanted Roethlisberger to be traded immediately. "It bothers me that even some of my family that live in western PA see him as a role model in the community. His winning has led to the Pittsburgh community forgiving him" says Contorchick. When a player commits an act of such magnitude, there should be no way that fans let off said player for at least two-

three years. I know that I said I forgave Michael Vick, but that was only after he spent time in jail and has since become a spokesperson for PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.)

Forgiveness is important, but it should be earned, not given. There shouldn't be a single person who lets Pistorious off the hook for his actions until a sentence is served or until he does something to give back. Athletes aren't anything special; they are humans just like fans and we need to realize that.

"We put athletes up on a pedestal, as fans we want to see our teams be successful... we'll forget it because they'll help our team win." - Don Maynard

Recent Athlete Slip-Ups:

- *Oscar Pistorious: Charged with murder.*
- *Lance Armstrong: Admitted to doping.*
- *Tiger Woods: Affairs with multiple women.*
- *Michael Vick: Dog fighting.*
- *Ben Roethlisberger: Accused of sexual assault.*

"NEWMARKET" (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

Some of the positives of adding new students would be mainly attributed to just increasing class depth. "Sports teams may get better with a greater depth of students," adds Warach, and health teacher Rob Quaglieri points out "Having more students invites more electives, more advanced classes, and might open up the curriculum." Although there would be more students in classrooms, students at Oyster River may be exposed to new opportunities with the additional students.

Oyster River will change if the 260 students from Newmarket are added to its student population. It appears that with the additional students the education at Oyster River may suffer, due to a higher student to teacher ratio, less class flexibility, and just a different philosophy on education being added to the school.

However, the high school experience at Oyster River may be more enjoyable and better prepare the students for the real world. Sports which are a huge part of the high school experience would improve because of greater populations for coaches to choose from and greater revenue encouraging new sports like football. Students would have to expand out of their comfort zones taking

classes and working on projects with people they may not know, teaching them life lessons. Every school event ranging from dances, to spirit week, to sporting events would be more exciting and better encourage school spirit because of the greater student population participating and spectating.

So although a student's education may suffer, it would be very minimal, and unsubstantial when consider against how much a larger high school could improve the high school experience and better prepare students for the real world.

The direction that Oyster River is going to move in with regard to Newmarket and tuition students in general is increasingly important and known by Howland as the "decision of the decade." Whether or not Oyster River takes on new students from Newmarket will affect the education of hundreds of children, and requires the utmost attention from the two communities. Oyster River's culture and academics will change based on this decision and it needs the entire community onboard.



Cam Messer
Guest News

When looking through the Program of Studies at Oyster River, you won't find your traditional high school courses. Although the subject requirements are there, Oyster River goes about fulfilling them a different way. Oyster River High School uses an elective based system rather than a track system. This results in more heterogeneous grouping in the classroom; meaning students are placed in classes that are based on their

interest and skill competency, rather than age. This system deviates from the traditional practice of tracking, or more homogeneous classrooms. Tracking refers to a decided course load that is based on academic standings going into the first or second years of high school. This course load follows a student as they advance through high school with little room to expand. There is often a general education track, an honors track and an advanced placement track. Some may call the system progressive, but here at Oyster River it has become a normality of everyday life.

Students are able to choose from a variety of classes that fulfill the graduation requirements set by the state of New Hampshire. Instead of taking 10th grade English, one could take Debate and Persuasion, or a Mythology class. This freedom of choice allows students to take a more focused and in depth curriculum that they might excel in or enjoy. Likewise, students are likely to learn better and apply what they learn if they have an interest in the subject. Senior Jason Rubinstein shares his opinion: "It gives them a chance to actually

EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

choose the kind of things that they want to look into." Rubinstein also agrees that students are more likely to learn in a class that they actually want to be in. Durham's neighboring town and district; Dover, functions using a track based system. Current Oyster River Social Studies teacher Karen Van Dyke previously taught at Dover High School. "Throughout the school you could hear the conversations: 'oh you are in the smart track or your in the slow track' and kids embody that and when you ask them to do something and they might say 'well I'm not a college prep student,'" Van Dyke shares.

Van Dyke teaches a Russian Studies class at Oyster River, which has 10th, 11th and 12th graders enrolled. "Everybody has a great idea or a thought," Van Dyke comments.

High School Assistant principal and former classroom teacher Sara Wotton shares her view on heterogeneous groupings in the classroom: "I definitely feel it makes a huge difference when kids are not shut into a track and not allowed to move about and to make some of those choices on their own."

The elective system that we have here provides a superior education and overall better high school experience. We have the freedom to move around and explore different subjects, and tailor our schedule to classes that fit our needs and interests. A track based system benefits nothing but the taxpayer's wallet. Fewer teachers are needed in a tracking system and the teaching is straightforward, but the socioeconomic factor plays a huge part in a high school.

Students here function in an environment that encourages them to push themselves and in a direction that is challenging as well as interesting to them. "I think that heterogeneous grouping allows those barriers to be broken down, kids can be in a class with other kids, they can see how other kids approach work, it can open their minds to other opinions and other thoughts that they might not have been exposed to before." Wotton comments.

"Everybody has a great idea or thought."
- Karen Van Dyke

"It can open their minds to other opinions and other thoughts that they might not have been exposed to before." -Sara Wotton

SPRING TRACK AND FIELD



Andrew Gass
Features Writer

The track team looks to continue their success from a strong indoor season in which they had 15 runners qualify for states. The team returns most of the runners from the indoor season and that should bode well for both the boys' and girls' teams. "Our goal is to always allow kids to have a personal best," says Coach Nick Ricciardi. He adds on that he hopes to have as many kids qualify for States.

The team will continue to look strong on the distance side with runners like Christian Davis,

Cam Barth, Drew Horton, Wes Hutton and Thomas Caulfield, who are all expected to score big at meets for the Bobcats. "We finished 4th at the state meet last year, and from that team we lost a lot of great athletes such as Ethan Druskat, Jack Collopy, and Ryan Brady. It'll be tough to follow in their footsteps but I think we're up to the task," says Davis.

Souhegan High School looks to once again be the toughest competition for the Boys' team and while they are optimistic, the chances of beating them out for the State Championship are slim. They do look to fight for second place though.

On the girls side Mandi Lathrop and Shauna Bulger will be two of the senior leaders, while freshman Maegan Doody looks to build off her record setting indoor season.

"I think as a team we have the ability to be really strong," says Lathrop. Look for the girls' team to be right in the mix for states. Dominique Twombly also looks to be a promising freshman sprinter for the girl's side. Bulger will be competing in the pole vault, an event in which last year she set the school record for highest cleared jump.

"The biggest challenge that the team will face this season could potentially be time. Our first meet is coming up soon and with the weather, we could lose some practices," says Doody.

Juniors Sean Coit and Jan Bartos will be looked upon to be leaders for the boys sprinting team since there are few seniors and many juniors who will be competing. "The team should do very well this year, we have a lot of returning veteran athletes and a bunch of promising newcomers," says Coit.

The track and field team opened up their season on April 2nd in a dual meet at Portsmouth High School.



Team leaders for the sprinting side.



The "Big 5" for the distance team (minus Thomas Caulfield).

SPRING TRAINING



China Wong
Sports Writer

The Oyster River Boys Baseball team started practicing way before the major leagues even started training camp. Yes, you read that right, the boys started practicing back in December and have consistently had practice two to three times a week since then. "Our

indoor equipment in the MPR has been very beneficial. The batting cage, two pitching mounds and access to the gym floor for ground balls has been a huge help," explained junior Wade Belanger. "We have been able to work on pitching, endurance, hitting, and fielding every week as a result [of the equipment]," added Belanger.

According to junior shortstop Andrew Wolcott, "Last season was awful. We went 2-14 and lost our best pitcher, Travis Hackett, to arm problems early in the year. After that we never really recovered as we lost seven straight games." One of the reasons the team didn't do too well last year was because of lack of experience. The roster was mainly made up of underclassmen and the Bobcats only had one senior on the team. "We were a very young team last year. I knew that the team had lost thirteen seniors from the previous year. Our first nine games were really strong last year. Then after that we just seemed to get tired and then losing Travis was really hard," explained Coach Craig Walfield.

There will be six returning seniors this year and they hope to have a memorable season. "It's my senior year, so I am looking to go all the way this year," said Travis Hackett. He has high expectations for his team saying, "I am expecting us to give it 110% throughout the whole year and to not stop. We will be very successful this year." Along with Hackett, center-fielder Connor Grove is excited for the upcoming season. Grove has loved and appreciated the game of baseball since a very young age. "As a senior I am most looking forward to enjoying my senior year on the diamond. I've played baseball since I was 6 years old and to cap it all off as captain of the baseball team is a great way to go out," said Grove.

Belanger believes that the team will be successful this season saying, "We had about four freshmen, four sophomores, and only one senior in the mix last year. This year, we are made up of the same people; we are just a bit older and more prepared for what



Wade Belanger winds up for a pitch.

"As long as we keep fighting and fight through all seven innings, we can and will be a winning team."

-Wade Belanger

son. We have the majority of the same guys returning so we will have a year's worth of experience as a team."

The team's biggest strength by far this season is in their pitching. They have a strong rotation with lots of experience and talent. "Travis will be our number one pitcher, then Luke Finacchiaro, and Casey Aubin will round out the top three," explained Coach Walfield. "We have a lot of depth and skill in our pitching rotation," added Walfield. Wolcott also believes that the pitching will make the biggest difference this year. "Our

pitching rotation is our biggest strength because all of them [the pitchers] are returning. Also the top five batters in the order are all really good hitters, which means we should be scoring a lot more runs and getting on base," explained Wolcott.

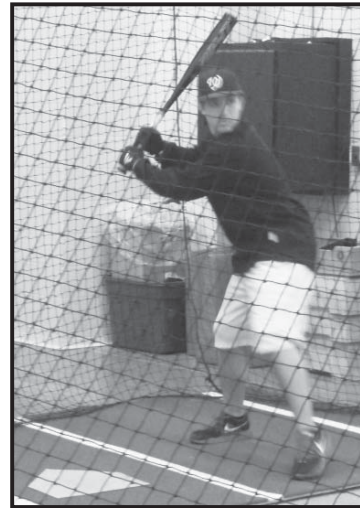
Belanger hopes that the team will exceed the number of wins from last year. "We can definitely be a competing team. Not necessarily a state championship, but we can put our mark in the area.

As long as we keep fighting and fight through all seven innings

we can and will be a winning team," explained Belanger.

Hackett believes that having a core group of the same guys returning is a huge advantage saying, "This year's team is pretty much the same. We all have experience playing on varsity so we know what to expect." Although expectations are high having fun and working together as a team is a very important aspect of the game. "Our goal as a team is to make the playoffs. We have the right combination of players who want to win and players who want to have fun. In a way they [the team] reminds me of the 2003 Red Sox (The Idiots) because we are a bunch of goofs. We have fun out there," said Grove.

Some players to look out for are seniors Travis Hackett, Nate Lord, and Connor Grove. Also keep an eye out for juniors Wade Belanger, Andrew Wolcott, and sophomore Timmy Stringer. This year's Captains are (Pitcher) Travis Hackett, (Center fielder) Connor Grove, (Right fielder) Sam Lewis, and (Shortstop) Andrew Wolcott.



Andrew Wolcott takes some swings in the batting cage.

**The boys' first game is home against
Portsmouth on April 10th at 4:00!**



China Wong
Sports Writer

won a game in over four years.

The problem seems to be because not enough girls try out for the team. Freshmen who love softball shy away because of the team's lack of wins. It's hard to win games without a strong experienced team. In the past, the team has lacked upperclassman because they usually quit after their first season. The team has always had a very young and inexperienced roster unlike their opponents. Last year there was one senior on the team, the year before that, only two.

This season is looking promising for the Bobcats and they have a lot of potential to finally get that first win. The team has a core group of upperclassman and lots of senior leadership. They have four returning seniors, and two of them have been on the team for four years.

Ariana Dawson has been very loyal to this team, as this is her fourth consecutive year playing softball. "I am most excited about being able to win a few games! The team dynamics will be a lot different this year so I'm really looking forward to play alongside each of the girls," said Dawson.

Senior Emily Brisard was new to the team last year, but that didn't hold her back from having a great season. Brisard was used all over the field. She played shortstop, left field, and she even pitched. The most consistent spot for her was left field. She showed that she was capable of shutting down the other team's offense and dominated in the outfield. Brisard believes that the team didn't do too well last year because "we [the team] weren't playing as a complete team, but over the course of the season we started to come together."

Junior Lauren Sullivan was one of the top players last year as she excelled at shortstop. "Our biggest struggle from last year was definitely batting and getting players on base," said Sullivan. It's hard to win games if you can't score any runs. According to Sullivan, if the Bobcats want to win a game this year, they will need to "work on their batting techniques and start making some consistent contact with the ball." Last season, the Bobcats would get runners on base and leave them stranded there. Batters struggled with getting hits and because of that they had trouble advancing the runners. Brisard agrees with Sullivan saying "batting is a major weakness."

Dawson hopes for the team to support one another even when things aren't always going the best. "Our biggest weakness happens when we let the other team or a mistake we made get inside our heads. It's very important to stay positive and keep talking and encouraging each other on the field. We need to work on staying in the game and not giving up when we're behind," explained Dawson.

Newcomer junior, Mickayla Hartford, is looking forward to this season, saying, "I haven't played on a team the past couple of years and I miss it; it's

PITCH PERFECT

SOFTBALL SEASON PREVIEW

"We have a great class of 9th grade softball players coming in, who should add a lot to our team this year. With the combination of great returning players, I think we will have a very good season," said head coach Beth Rowe. There's no sugar coating the fact that the Oyster River Girls' Softball team hasn't

a fun sport."

Coming into this season she hopes to catch or play shortstop. She is very flexible though saying, "I will play anywhere I am needed."

Everyone is optimistic and is looking forward to this season. All the girls believe that they have the potential to finally win a game. "We have a lot of individual talent, if we can work together as a team instead of individuals, we have the potential to win some games this year," explained Brisard. Sullivan agrees saying, "With the addition of some freshmen, along with a

strong defense, the hopes are high to pull off a few wins this year." As a newcomer Hartford as well believes the team can win saying, "I think we finally have a chance. I heard there are a lot of talented girls coming in

"We need to work on staying in the game and not giving up when we're behind."

-Ariana Dawson

and I hear the coaching is good too.

Another aspect that does not help the team win games is all of the negative comments and lack of support. The team has been considered a joke, but people don't realize how hard these girls work and how much they want to win a game. Losing isn't because of a lack of effort from the team because they wouldn't be playing the

sport if they weren't committed.

Everyone wants to win, there's no question about that. A large part of the student body and the community laugh and make fun of the softball team because they lose, but they don't realize that because of their negative attitudes it makes it harder for the team to win. "It's easy to let the negative comments and the pressure to finally win a game get to your head; but it's another thing to push through it and come out on top. Our team does an excellent job encouraging one another on and off the field," said Sullivan. Coach Rowe believes that working together is the girls' biggest strength. "We are a TEAM, all of the girls help each other out, whether it is hitting, fielding, catching, etc. They play as a core, and try to pick each other up when necessary,"



Sarah Meyer pitches the ball.

explained Rowe.

Dawson believes that, "the team's biggest strength would be our fielding. We have a good infield and outfielders and with practice I know we will work really well together. Already we've done a good job communicating, so that will definitely help us this season."

It's a pretty simple concept. The team would like some fan support. Many students are turned away from attending games. It never occurs to them that their support may actually be a contributing factor in helping the team get their first win. Coach Rowe believes that more fan support will really help the team saying, "It is disheartening to not get the support from the school body. I think our team feels that when they don't see fans (other than their parents) rooting them on then they figure it's because no one thinks they are going to win the game, so why bother going out to see the game. Seeing your family and friends in the stands MOST DEFINITELY makes you want to perform at your best--and you want even more to win the game!"

"The hopes are high to pull off a few wins this year."

-Lauren Sullivan



The girls' first game is home against Trinity on April 10th at 4:00!

Mrs. Beaton sings and plays guitar and is the frontman of a band with her college friends.

RELAX, BOYS... IT'S A NEW SEASON!



Eliza Brown
Sports Writer

"Some teams know how to win and some lose, we just don't know how to win yet," expresses junior Aidan Conrad, after their tough 2012 season.

After having a record of 9-6 in 2011, this team expected big things in 2012 but came up short ending with just three wins and an upsetting 11 losses. Coach Sean McGann had his first coaching experience with the team in 2012 and is expected to return this upcoming season.

Coach McGann explains that, "It's never fun to look back at a record like that but I feel really good about this new season and the group of athletes that will be returning," as he works with the team in hopes that they can build and improve off of their past season.

McGann sees many opportunities for the team and points out that this season's goals are very simple, "Work as hard as possible all season long and improve every single day." "There aren't any positives I can take from last season," explains Conrad, one of last year's key defenders. Although the past season was a tough one for these bobcats, Conrad believes they can only go up from here, "We'll be better than last year, I don't know by how much yet...but I think we can make playoffs." Senior midfielder Seamus Clancy agrees with Conrad and expects that they will make it "further than last year" and hopefully top four or five in the playoffs.

"The fact is, our offense couldn't keep up while our defense could," explains Clancy, who fully believes that can change this season. Conrad feels that the team doesn't have experience winning, which could hurt them if not looked at. However, there are a lot of returning players who he believes can only help. Junior Jeff Ahlgrim explains that the team just doesn't know who the offensive leaders will be, however senior offensive player Julien Pelletier hopes he will be able to have a "plethora of goals in the back of the net" which could possibly help lead the team.

This team has the "we can be better" mentality and hopes this new season will bring good things. With a full season ahead and anything possible, each player is going in with a fresh start.



Boys' varsity lacrosse practice in the senior lot.

First home game is tomorrow at 4 pm, so come out and show some support!

CHILLAX, GIRLS...



Nick Lazar
Sports Writer

The Oyster River girl's lacrosse team is coming off a five hundred season with a record of 7-7 and look to improve that record this year. The Bobcats are also coming off a season where they were the fourteenth seed and got knocked out in the first round of Division III playoffs against defending champions Windham. The Bobcats lost their three senior captains from last year: Paige Moody, Riley Maynard and Chole Piel. This means they must get strong upperclassmen play this year on and off the field. The three seniors that are captains this year are Allie Harris, Anna Genes and Lynn Burke. They also need to replace a major role on the offensive side with the loss of Marissa Biederman who led the team in scoring last year. This will be a new experience for the Bobcats as they will look for multiple people to contribute to the goal scoring unlike last year.

The strengths of this year's team will likely be their upperclassmen play. The Bobcats have a ton of returning seniors, which provides great experience and leadership for some of the underclassmen on this year's squad. "The experience that we have this year compared to last year will help a lot towards what we're working on for this year's goals" says senior Ellen Sievert. Another big strength this year for the team will be having a more offensive, balanced attack with two seniors leading the way, Allie Harris and Becca Murphy. "Now that we just don't have one main scorer where teams could focus on

and try to shut down, we can now spread the ball around which would make it harder for teams to guard" senior Allie Harris puts. Finding a goalie was an issue this year, but last minute they were able to fill Haley Haggard's role, who graduated last year, with sophomore Kirstin Weiker. Another weakness is trying to find more people on the defensive side of the ball with only three defensemen on the current roster when you need four on the field at all times. "It is going to have to be by committee this year if we want to be successful. I think some of the underclassmen and a couple juniors as well will help with that," Sievert claims.

This will be a "wait and see year" for the Bobcats with a few key questions still unanswered for this year such as the lack of starting defensemen, but look for them to improve upon last year's record and make it further into the playoffs. It will be an interesting year for them, seeing if they go beyond what they are expected to do this year or have a sub-par season and finish below five hundred and not improve their record from last year.

"It is going to have to be by committee this year if we want to be successful."
-Ellen Sievert



Junoir Hannah Igoe defending a pass from a Saint Thomas player in preseason play

The girls' next home game is April 18th against Kingswood Regional!



BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS



Corey Scarano
News Editor

Finishing last season just one spot away from making the playoffs, the boys' tennis team is looking to take it that extra step further this season. With the expected 5 out of the top 6 players being seniors, for a lot of them, it will be the last year to give it their all.

Taylor Milliman states that, "We are set up for a pretty good season, returning all but one of our top 6 from last year. We have a lot of depth for sure, which should give us an edge over a lot of teams."

Zack Jones and Jesse Bornkessel will hold down the one and two spots, with several other upperclassmen filling the remaining spots.

Jones says that he has high expectations for the team because they only lost one consistent starter so they have a lot of experience. However, he also says that, "One of our weaknesses is that no one has played tennis all winter for the most part, and now the courts are snowy so we can't play."

"We are set up for a pretty good season, returning all but one of our top 6 from last year. We have a lot of depth for sure, which should give us an edge over a lot of teams." - Taylor Milliman

When the snow melts and the matches start, some of the boys' rivals will be Portsmouth, St. Thomas, and Hanover. Many of the players say an upcoming player to look out for is sophomore, Bryce Shultz.

The team is coached by Andy Allen. Milliman states, "Mr. Allen is a great coach and keeps the team pretty relaxed. This year I want to build on where I was last year but also not take it too seriously. Hopefully we can make the playoffs this year

and have a little more success this year."

Bornkessel leaves us with, "Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses, but our overall performance will give the other teams a tough match. Also, everyone gets along well and we all work hard to improve."



Zack Jones strikes a powerful backhand.

The team plays their next home match next Monday, the 15th against Portsmouth!



Zach Park
Sports Editor

THE GIRLS ARE, TOO

Despite falling just short of a playoff spot last year, the returning girls' tennis players viewed the season as a success. These girls realize that this year could be a bit more of an uphill battle due to the graduation of four of the top six players. Senior Becca Hoff is optimistic regardless of the graduated seniors stating, "We have a lot of solid players who will be able to step up to fill the top six and hopefully we can find our groove."

The top returning players are Hoff and fellow seniors Katie Sylvia and Ali Stewart. Hoff plays tennis year-round and is expected to compete for the #1 spot. Stewart is the other contender to take the #1 spot. This spring will be her 4th year of tennis and she will provide experience to the Bobcats which is something that is definitely lacking. Sylvia was used as a doubles player last year and will need to help in singles matches this year. Her specialty will still be in

doubles matches, and Hoff states, "Katie Sylvia is a mean doubles player and is great at net." These three seniors will have to provide results on the court and leadership off.

Despite having some players in place, coach Heuchling is a bit unsure with how the team is looking. "It's always difficult at the beginning to know how good in terms of wins and losses the team is." He sees the team being solid all-around and competing with most teams but continues to reiterate that experience is lacking.

With the team being relatively inexperienced, they need some new players to contribute. Hoff thinks the Howard sisters, Abby and Emily, will step up and help the team out. With three open spots in the top six, Hoff and Sylvia are both hoping for players to step into those spots. The team has a solid top three but could use some more depth in order to make the playoffs this year.

"We're the underdogs; other teams are going to underestimate us. I love playing for teams that are underestimated because it causes us to work that much harder to try and prove them wrong. We're a young team, but we have great potential," states Sylvia. The Bobcats will absolutely be underdogs this year but will need to embrace it as Sylvia says and improve throughout the year. This is a main goal for the team and will be vital for them moving forward.

Heuchling expressed his love for coaching stating, "I love teaching tennis to kids and seeing them grow from freshmen to when they're seniors is great." With a very knowledge and teachable coach in place, Oyster River girls' tennis is headed in the right direction.

The girls' tennis team seems to be a bit laid back and provides a good atmosphere for the players. Hoff and Sylvia both express their love for the spags, team spirit and simply the time together. Sylvia hopes to end on a high note saying, "As my last high school season, I'm hoping for a great end to the past four years."



Becca Hoff serves the ball as she prepares for the season.